



: [[] First Second



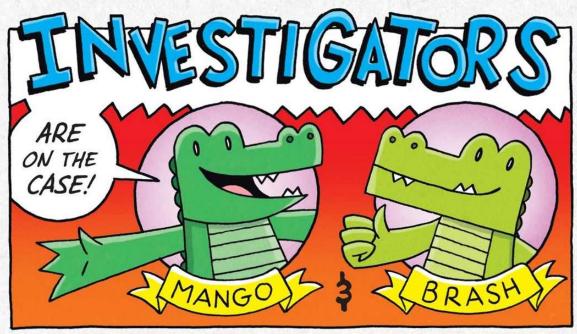


Chapter 1









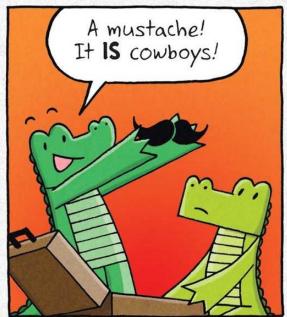


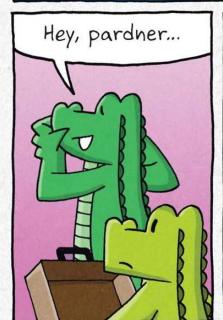




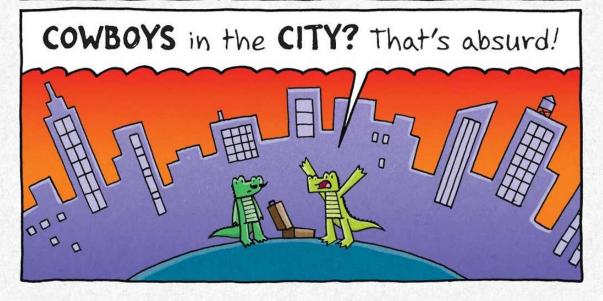
*Very Exciting Spy Technology **Special Undercover Investigation Teams







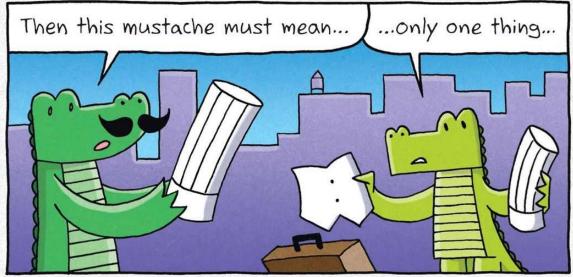








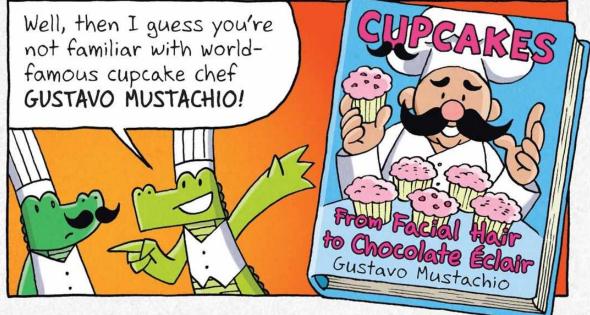














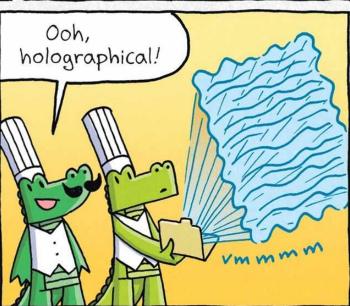


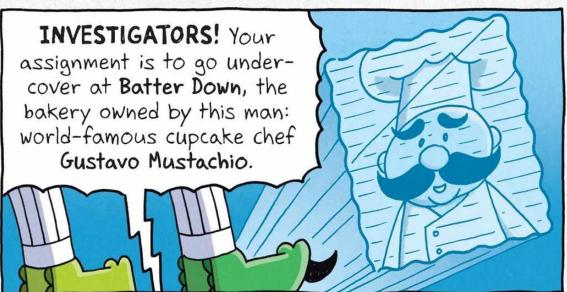
I was gonna say "thumb war," but okay, read the file, I guess.





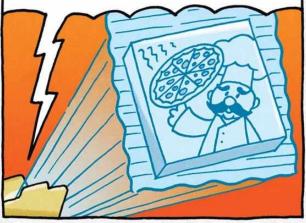








You might also recognize him from, like, every pizza box ever.



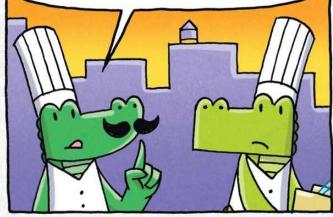


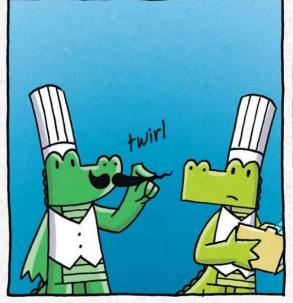






Or maybe some nefarious villain needs an expert baker and/or mustache model.



































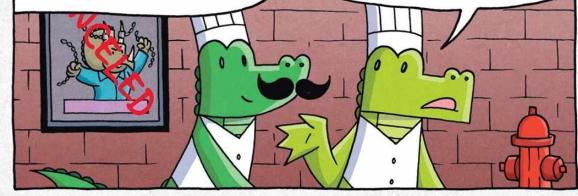
Are we supposed to pretend to be Gustavo with this mustache?

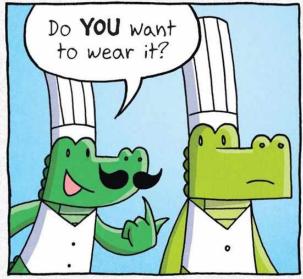
No one who really **knows** him will fall for it.

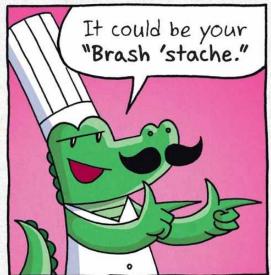


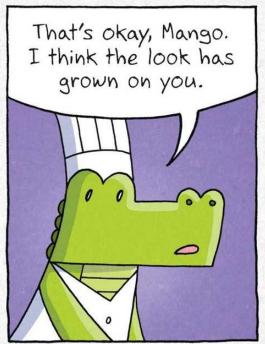
But I've learned S.U.I.T. likes its agents to be prepared for anything.

Maybe wearing it will trick the culprit into revealing themselves?



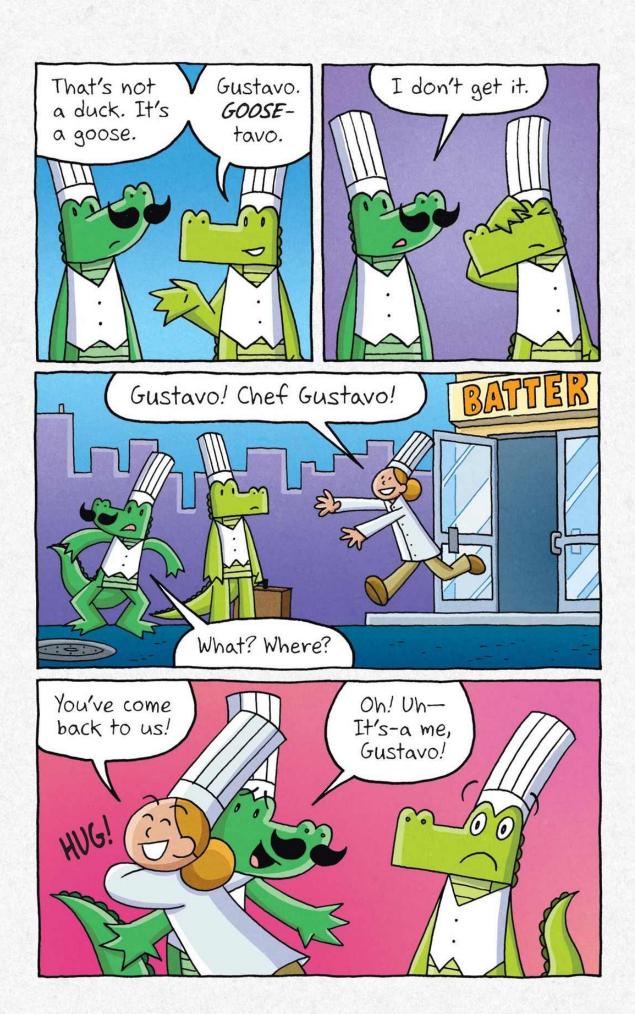






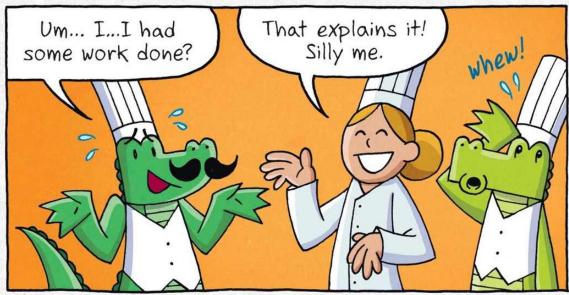
















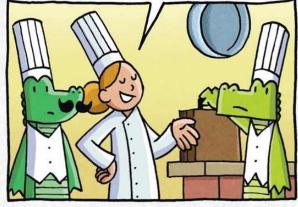






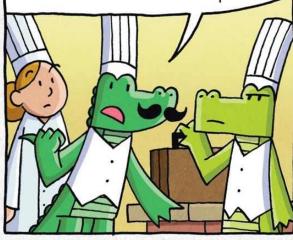


And now, if you'll get out the recipe, I can assemble the ingredients with the chef's permission.





You heard Junior Assistant Baker Marie. Hand over the recipe!





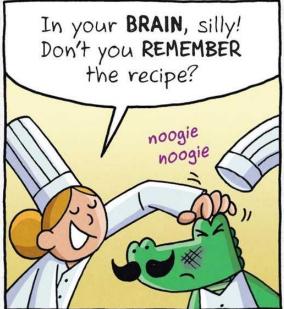




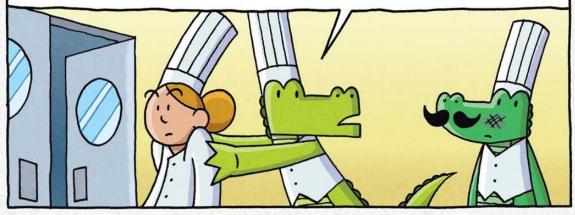




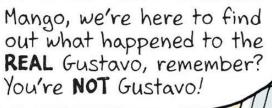




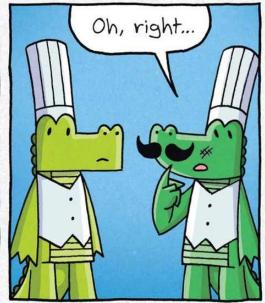
Yes! How right you are, Junior Assistant Baker Marie. Now, leave Chef Gustavo alone so the maestro can find his muse. I'll stay here for, um...legal purposes.



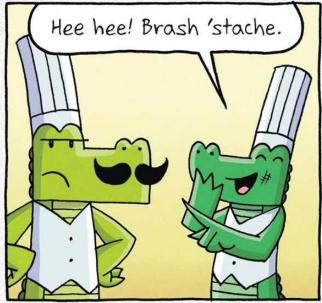






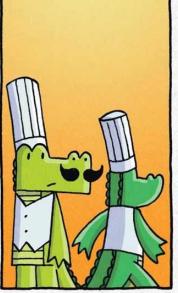




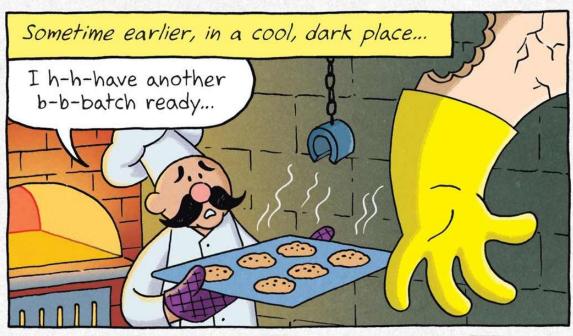


This is serious, Mango. Now let's look for clues.







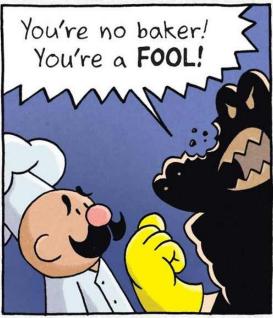




















Chapter 3



Ya know, I bet Junior Assistant Baker Marie is in on it. It's always an inside job!

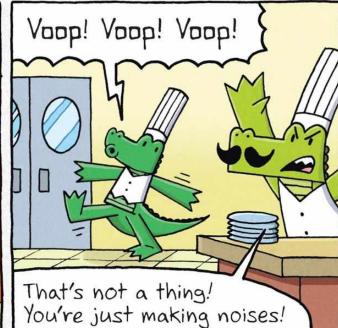


Maybe. You'd better go interrogate her.



Right! INTERRO-GATOR MODE ON!

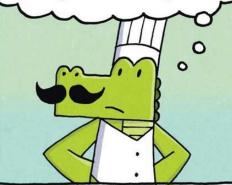




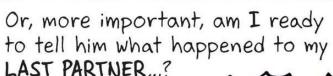


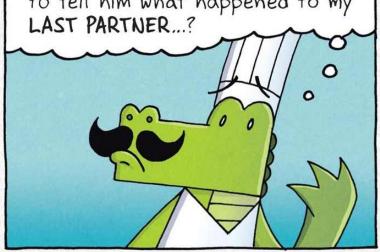


But I guess he's an okay partner. I just don't want anyone to get hurt again.



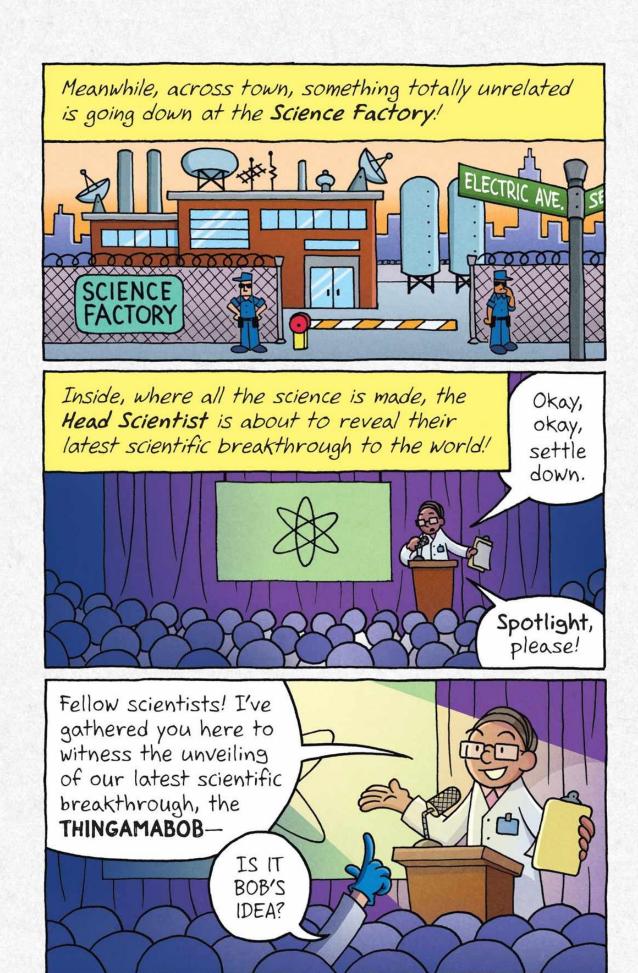
Is he ready to hear what happened the last time I went undercover at a bakery?

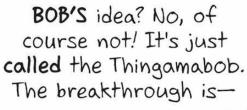






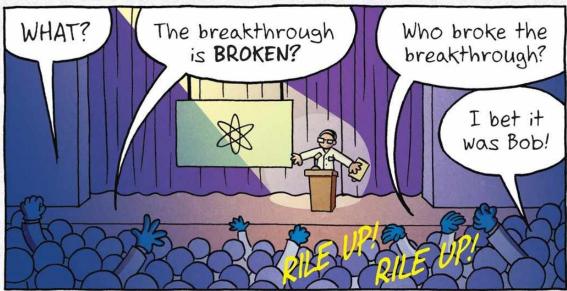


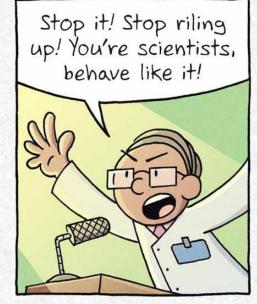




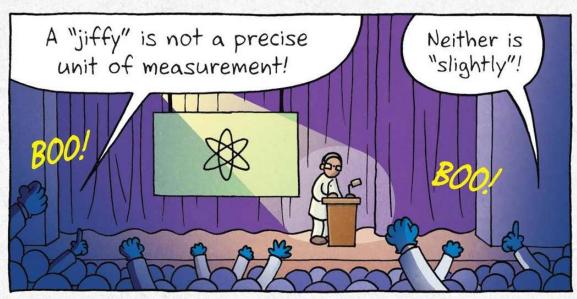








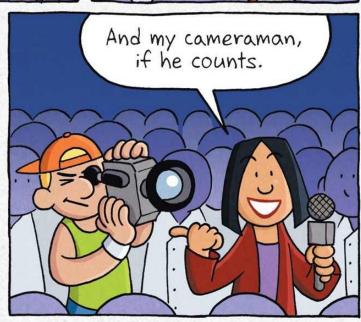




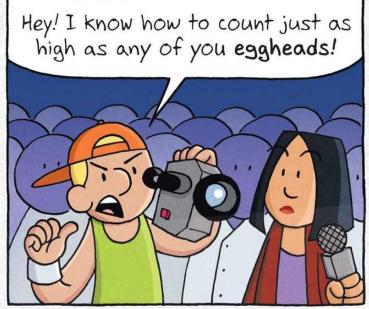


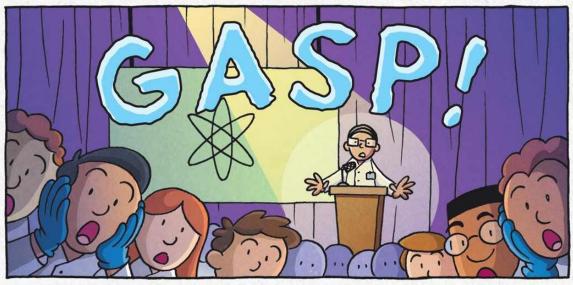


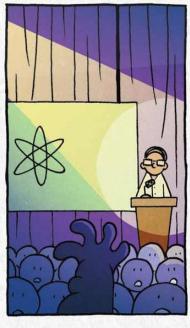


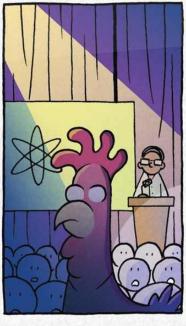


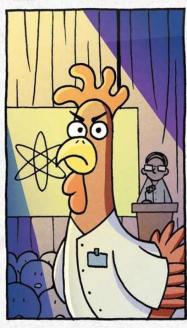




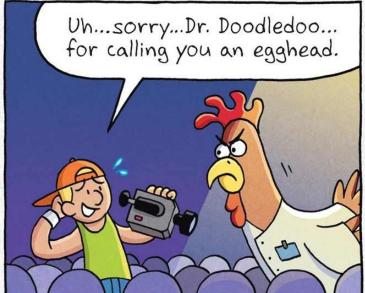






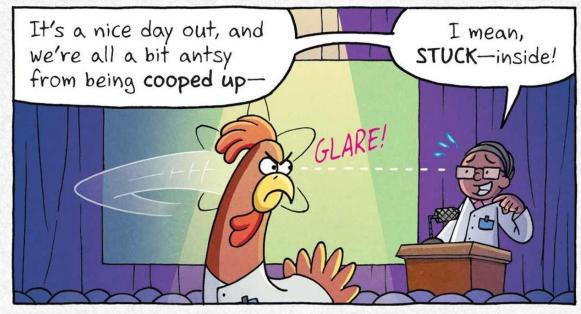




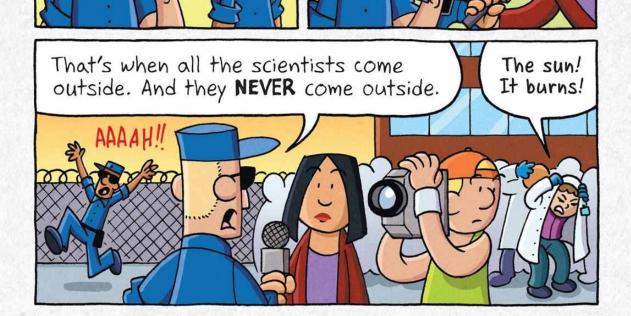




Now, then! While the breakthrough gets unbroken, what say we move the festivities outside?









Wow! This breakthrough is even more newsworthy than I thought. We should call in the chopper!



You heard it here first, viewers! A Code Sunburn has emptied the Science Factory...



...and a valuable Thingamabob sits unguarded inside, just waiting to be revealed!





Chapter 4













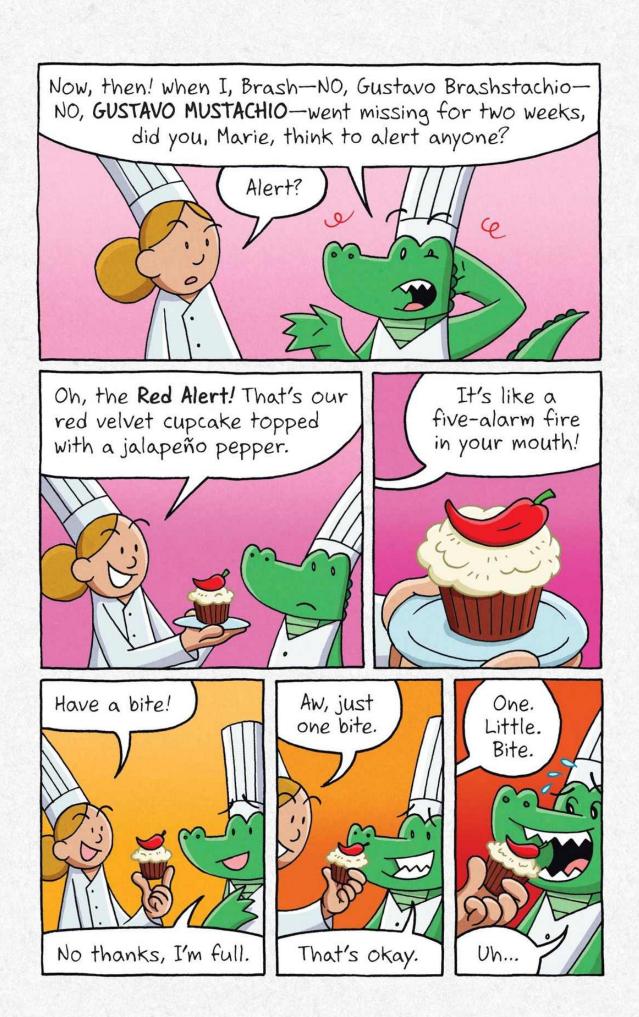
Don't you wish you could come up with such amazing recipes, Mister Brash?

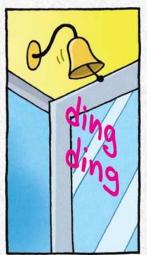




















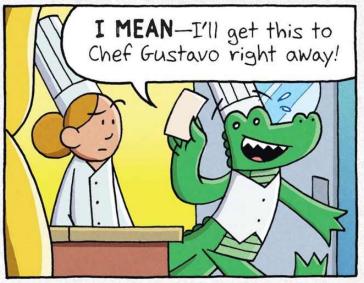






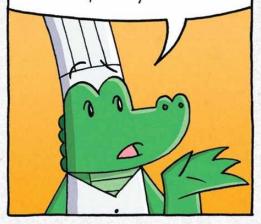




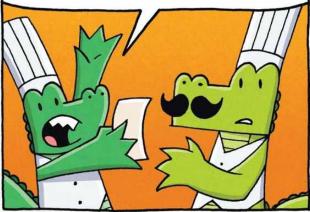




Well...no. She's either a criminal mastermind or completely clueless.



But whichever she is, we've got to bake this special order or our cover is blown!

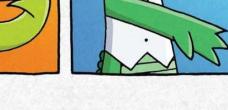


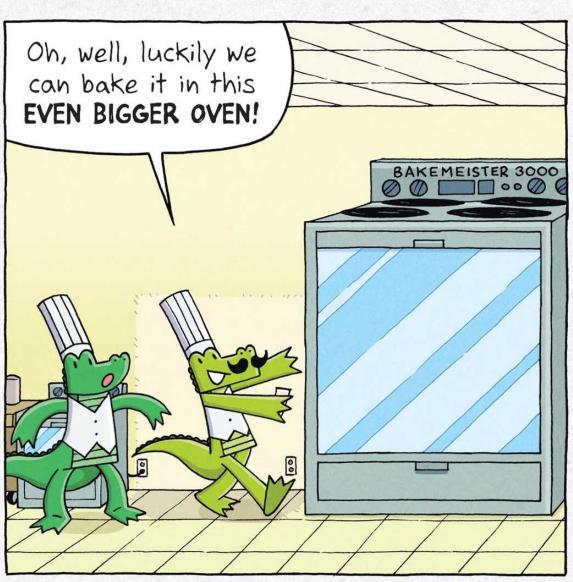


This cake requires a BIG oven, and I just discovered a BIG clue...





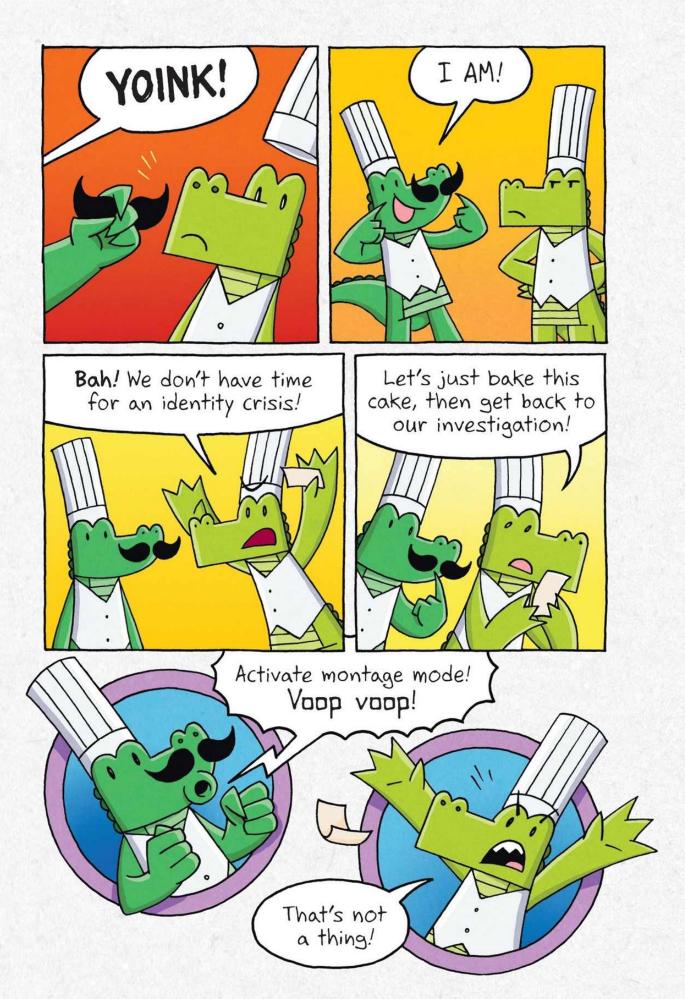


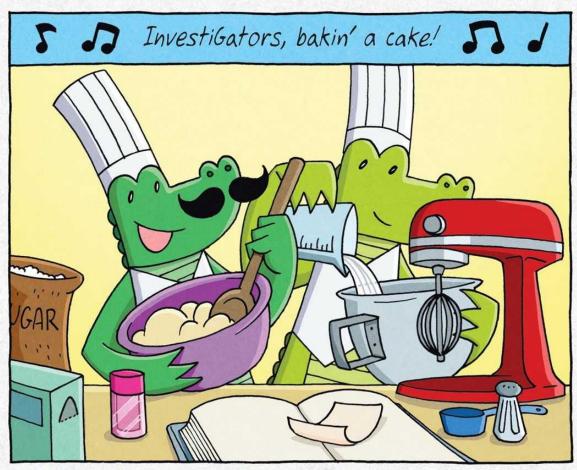




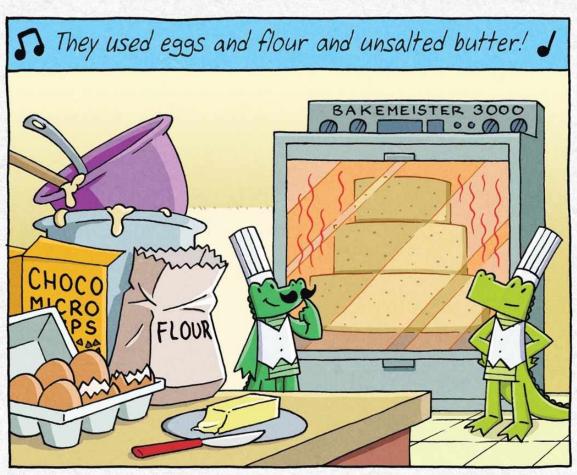
Doesn't that just mean

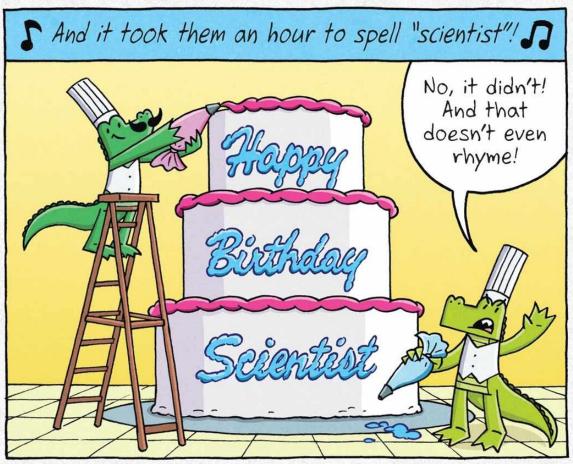


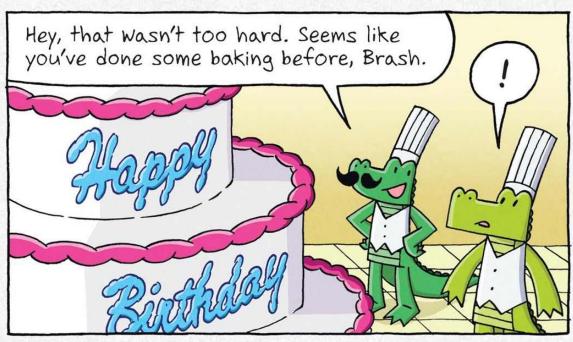








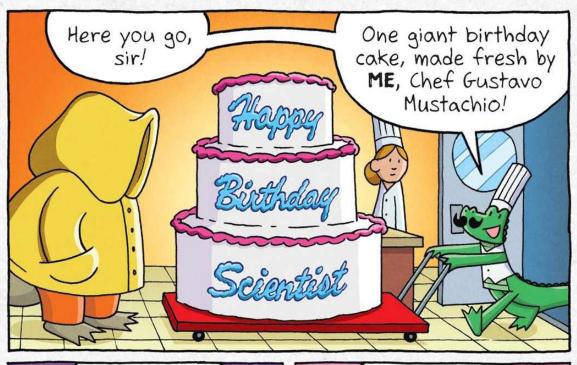
















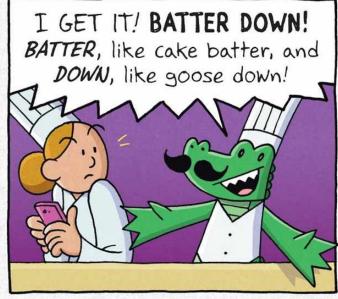


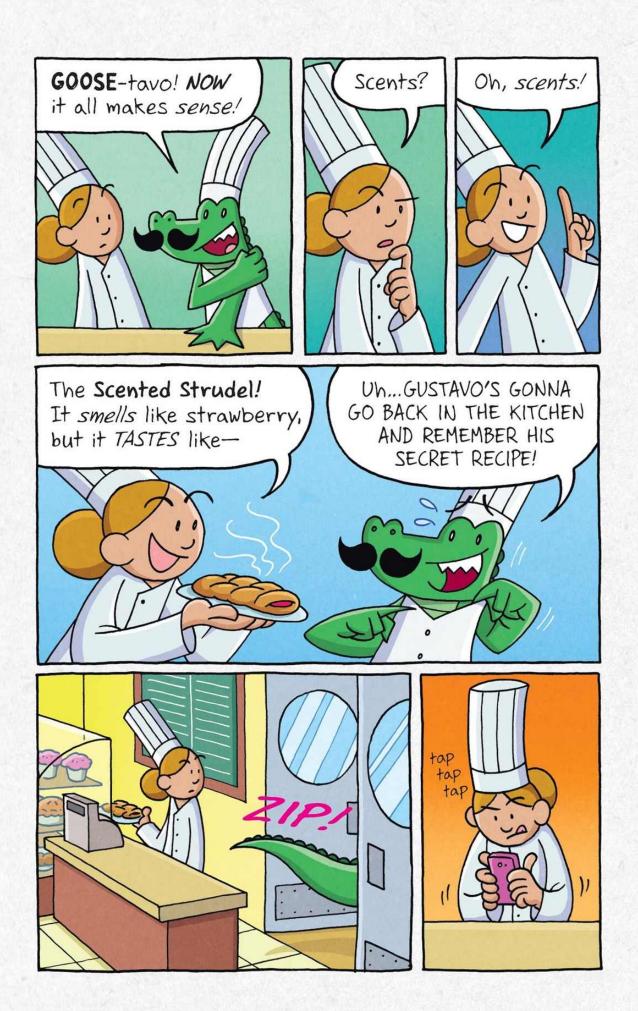












Chapter 5

Cici Boringstories here, reporting outside the Science Factory. With me is SCIENTIST BOB. Tell us, Bob, what's this scientific breakthrough you're cooking up inside?



Ha ha! I won't tell you what I'M cookin', Susan, but I will tell you it'll blow this breakthrough—

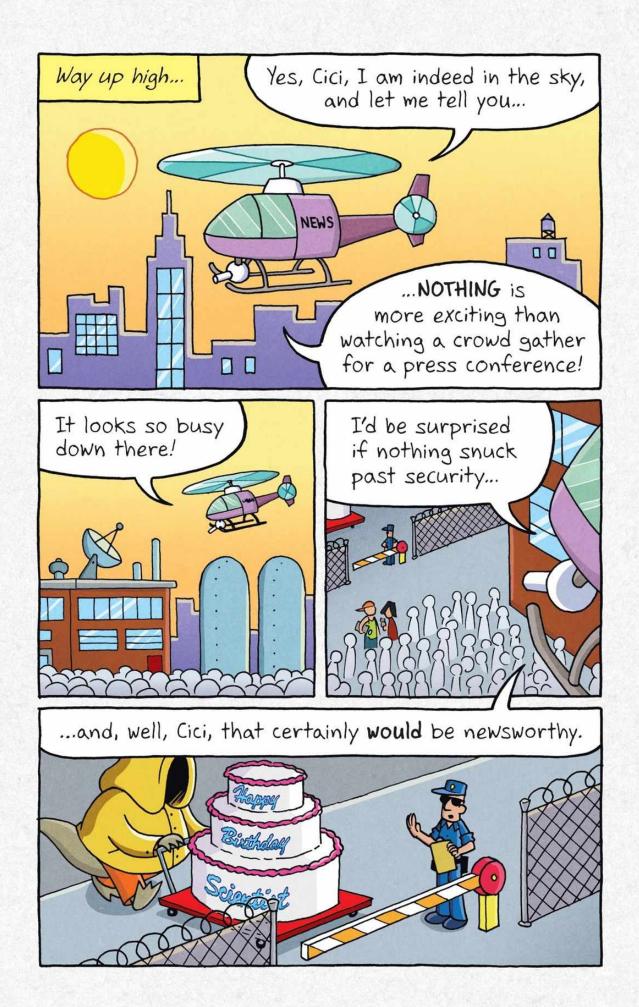


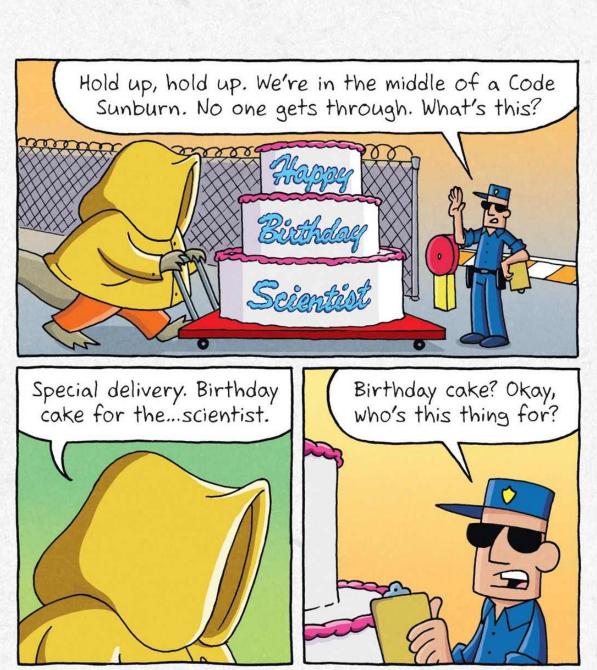


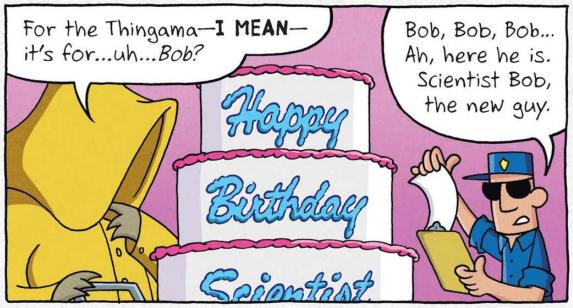
Sorry, Sophie.
Scientist Bob's
gotta motor!

Well, that wasn't informative at all. Sooooooo let's check in with the Action News Now helicopter in the sky!











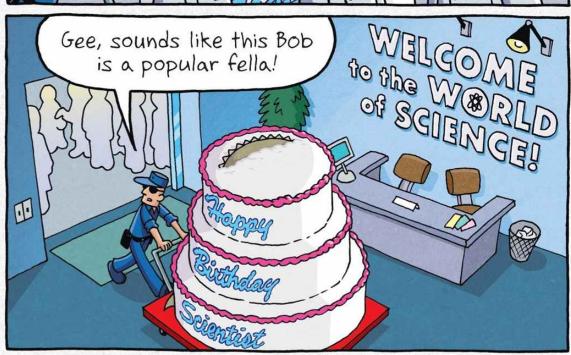
















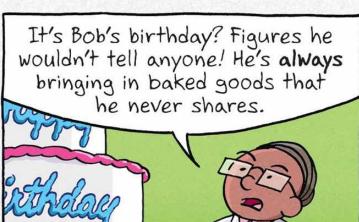












Look at the size of that thing! I bet he's trying to steal the spotlight from today's scientific breakthrough!

am tant









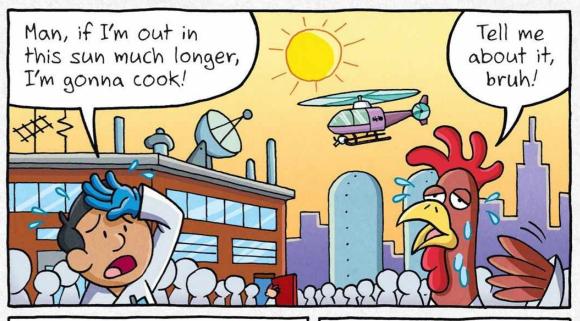








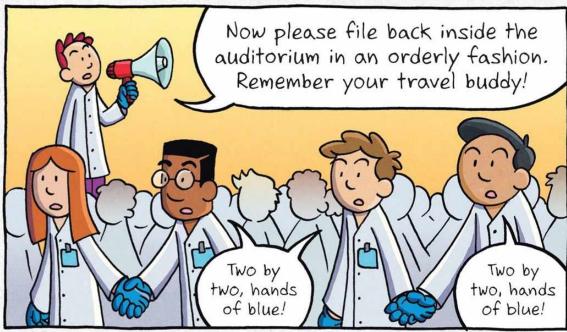






The breakthrough is fixed through!

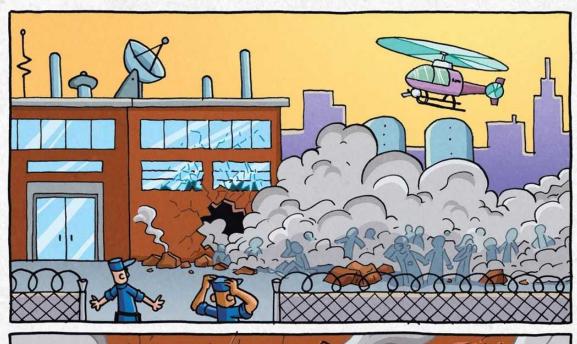














Chapter 6





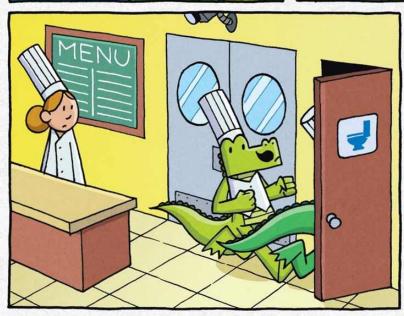




















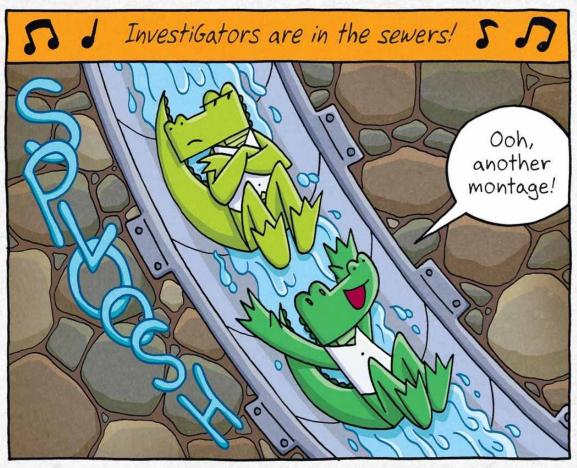




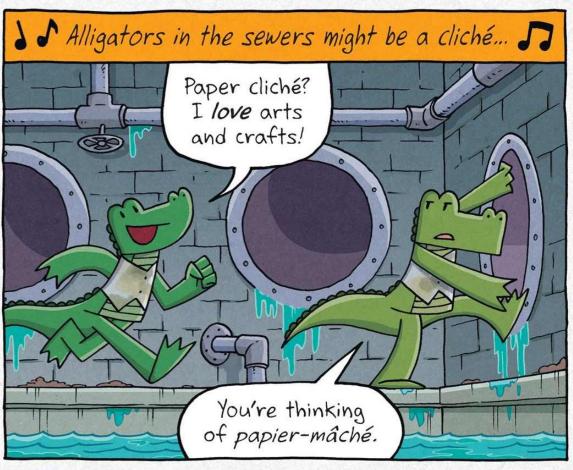






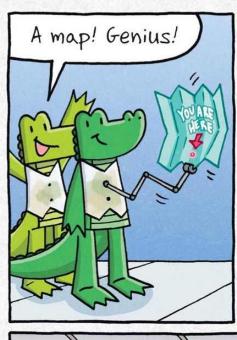


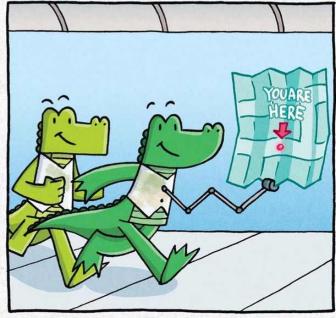














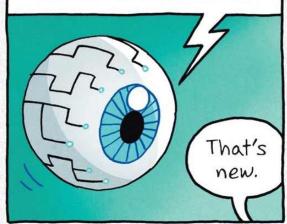






Greetings, InvestiGators.

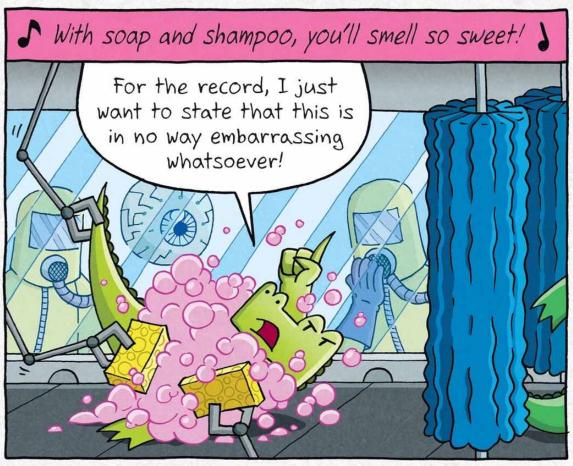
I am C-ORB. Computerized
Ocular Remote Butler.









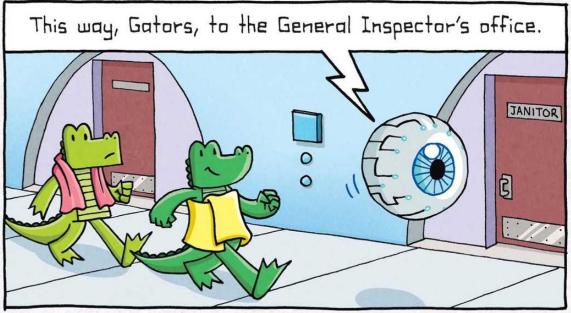






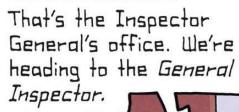








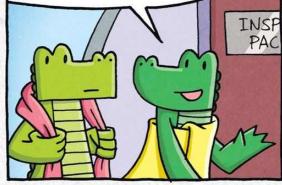






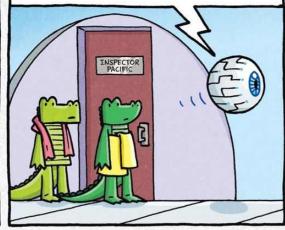


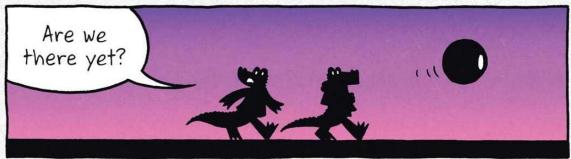
Inspector Vague.
Inspector General.
Next should be
Inspector Specifi—





Inspector Pacific handles
West Coast operations.







NO! Don't go in there! Not unless you want to catch an infectious disease!









Investigators! Thanks for coming so promptly. I know you're in the middle of the Gustavo Mustachio case.



Approximately **eighteen pages** ago, an explosion rocked the Science Factory down on Electric Avenue!



GOOD GOLLY, Eighteen pages! Has it really been that long?



Anyway! You're our agents nearest that location... Or, you were, before I ordered you to come here... But you will be AGAIN, once you get back there!





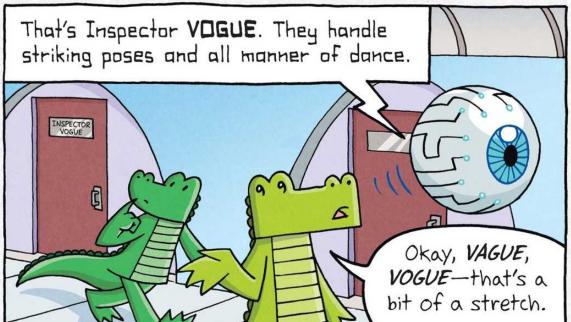


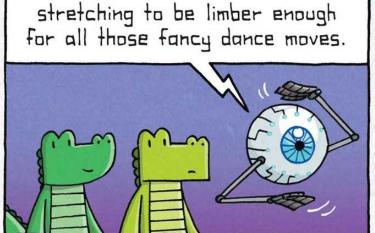










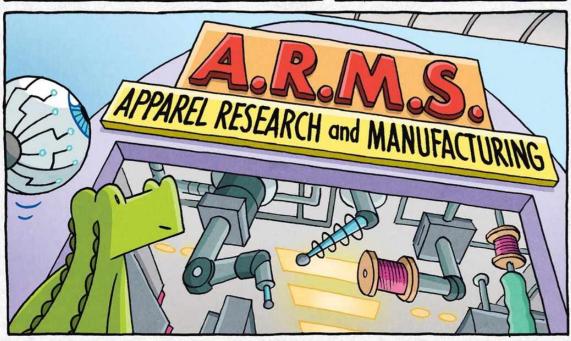


Indeed! It takes a lot of



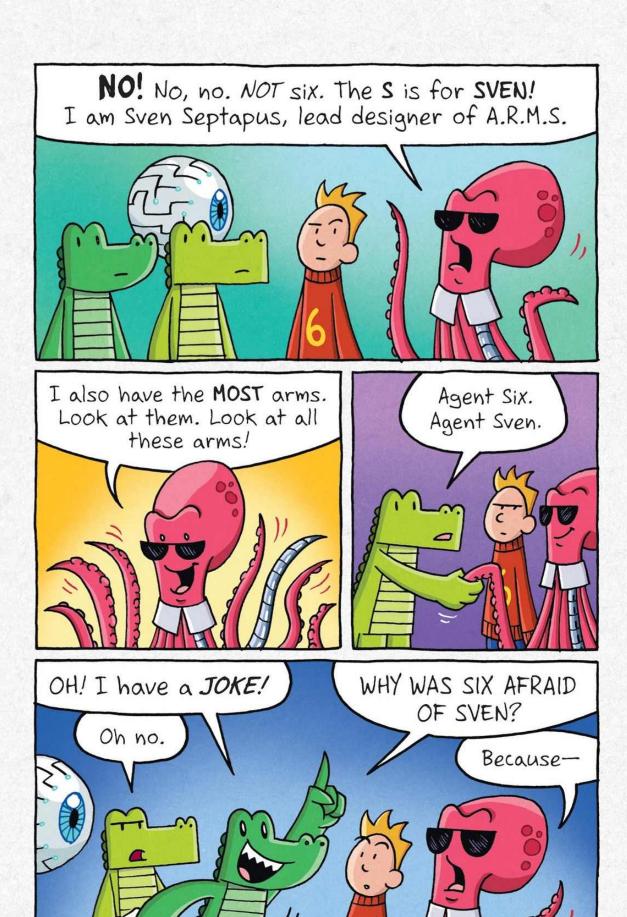


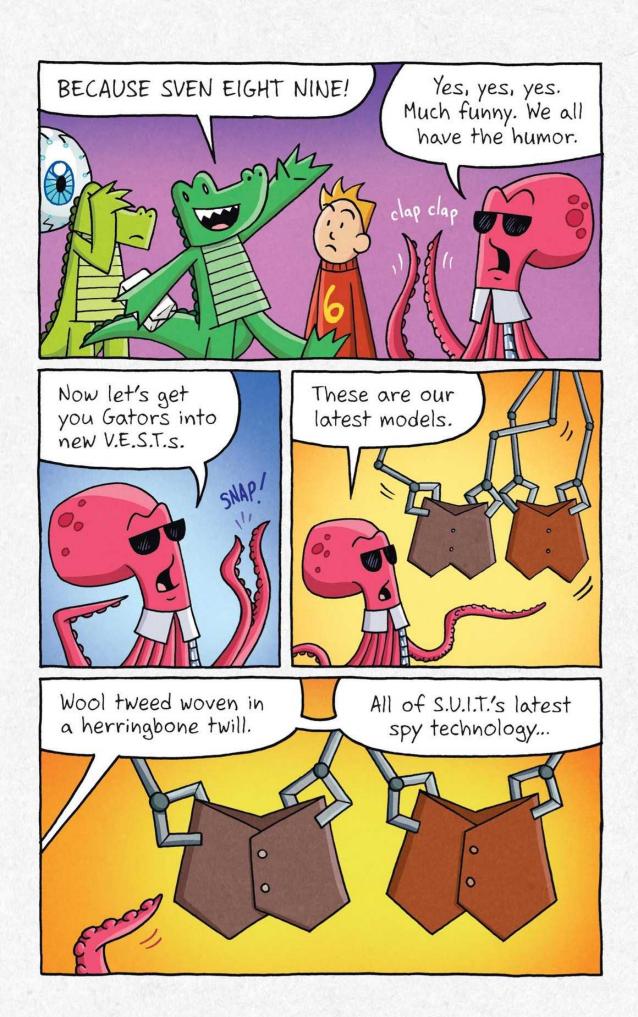


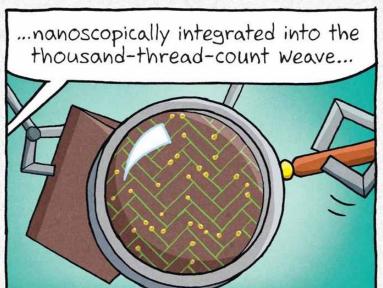




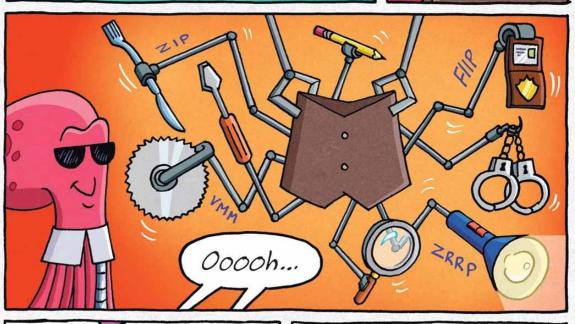










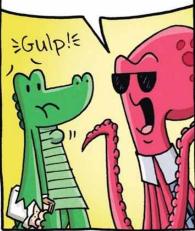






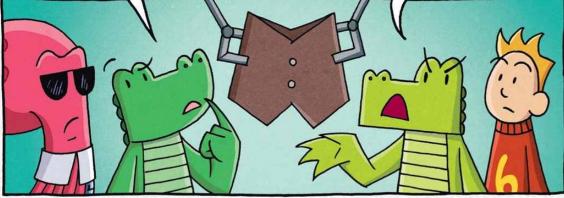


What about the V.E.S.T.s?!



Does it come in blue? Blue would really bring out the color in my eyes.

Mango, your eyes are just two little black dots like mine!



Mine too. I blame the artist for being LAZY.











Chapter 7



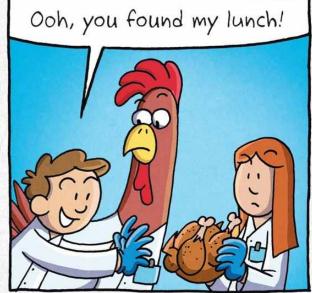


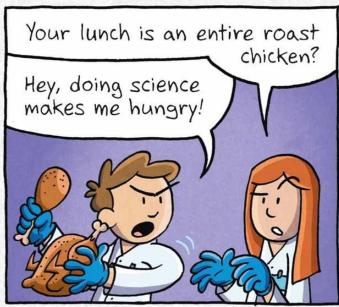






















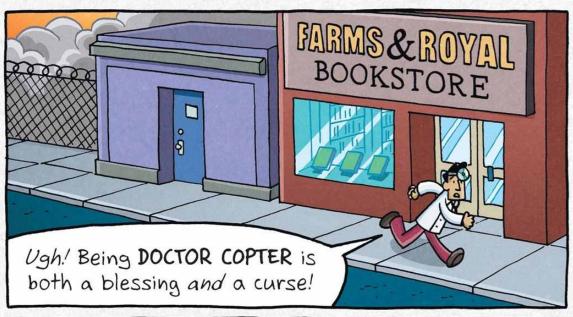






























We were in the middle of a Code Sunburn, so everyone was outside. A guy delivered a giant birthday cake for Bob, which I wheeled inside. Then I ran into one angry scientist, who was on his phone—it said something about a jamboree on the screen. Don't think I've seen him

Oh, and the only serious injury seemed to be to

Oh, and the only **serious** injury seemed to be to the Head Scientist, who was just taken away in an ambulance.



Thanks, security dude. Keep up the good work.

since, but it can be hard to tell these scientists

apart. Well, except for the chicken.







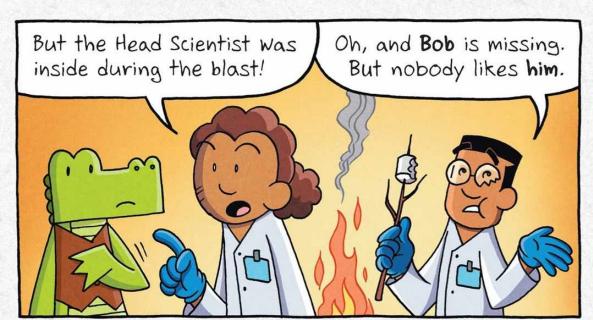
Mango, you see what clues you can dig up inside. I'll talk to everyone out here.

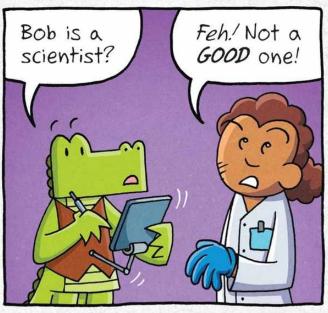




SCIENTISTS! My name is Brash. I'm an Investigator from S.U.I.T. Is everyone all right? Anyone unaccounted for?







He's only been here, like, a week, and already no one can tolerate him.





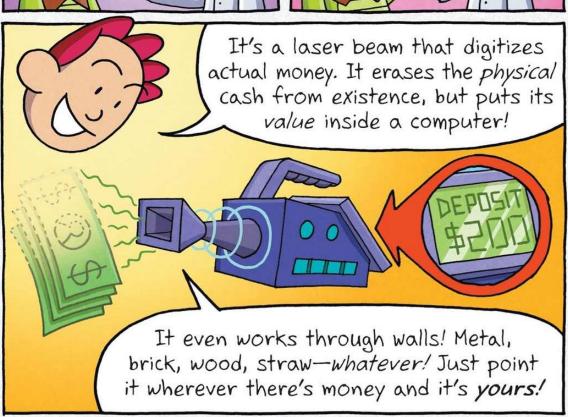
No. We have experiments blow up here all the time, but nothing like this! It was all, **KABLOOEY!!**







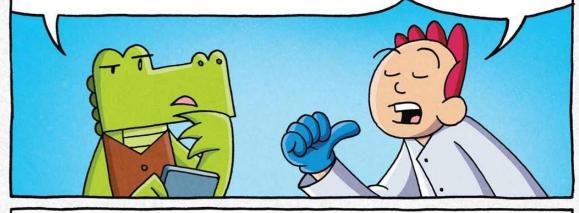




It basically transfers money from the real world into any bank account you want—preferably a high-interest savings account.

Why is it called the THINGAMASTEVE? Why not something like...the REVERSE ATM? Or...the DEPOSITRON? Or CASH GRAB?

Hey, we're scientists, not writers.



Well, I can see why you'd want to keep such a powerful tool safe. Pretty odd that you were going to ANNOUNCE IT TO THE WORLD ON THE NEWS!



AAAANYWAY... You said you haven't seen Bob since the explosion. Could he have taken the device? Did anyone have any of his birthday cake?





However, our news chopper in the sky should have caught something on camera—







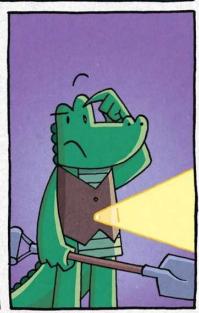








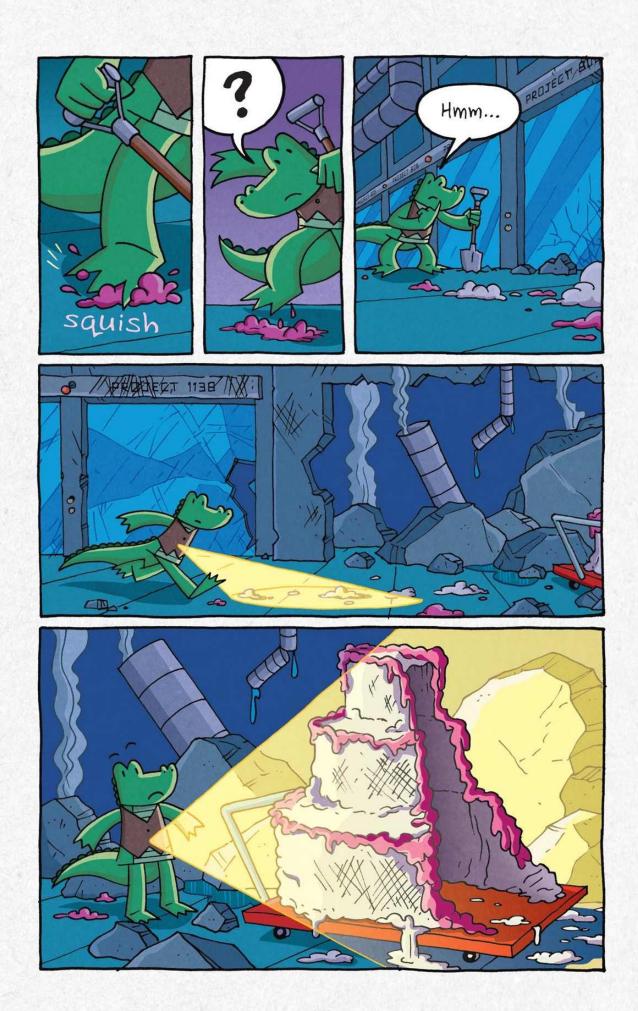




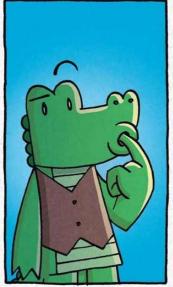


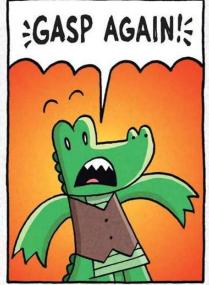
























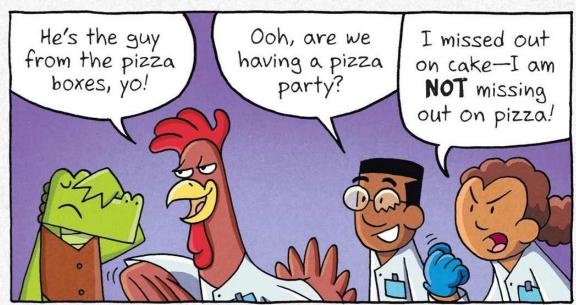


Bob's birthday cake was right by the explosion! And it was the same cake that WE made! Something—or someone was hidden inside it!

I KNEW there was something weird about those cake instructions!



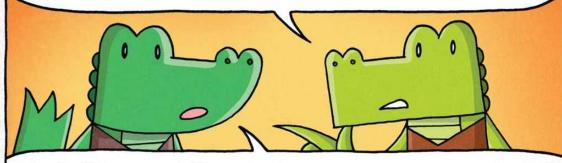






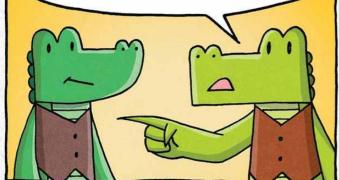


The Head Scientist was inside the factory with Bob's cake. And no one's seen Bob since the explosion.



What if Bob used the cake to sneak in an accomplice? If so...the Head Scientist may have seen them! And wherever that person went, the cake crumbs should lead to them.

Mango, I'm going to talk to the Head Scientist at the hospital. You follow the trail of cake crumbs.







It's a good thing we baked chocolate microchips into the cake. I can track them with my V.E.S.T.!













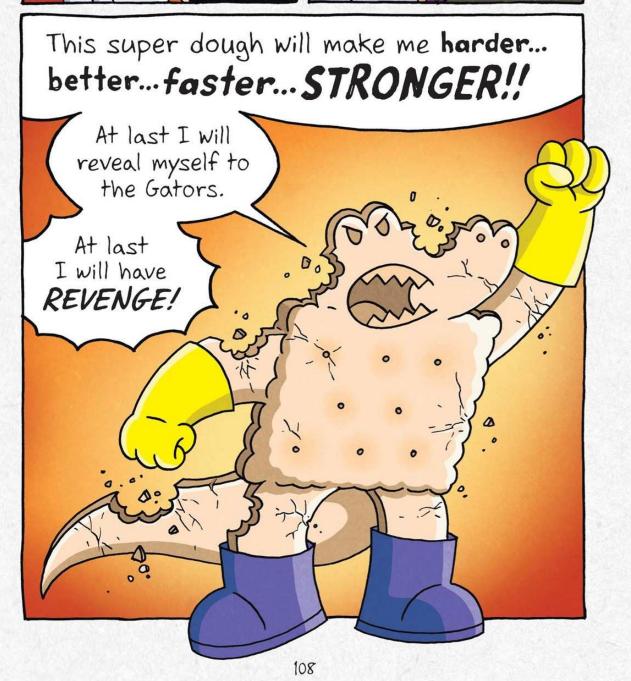
















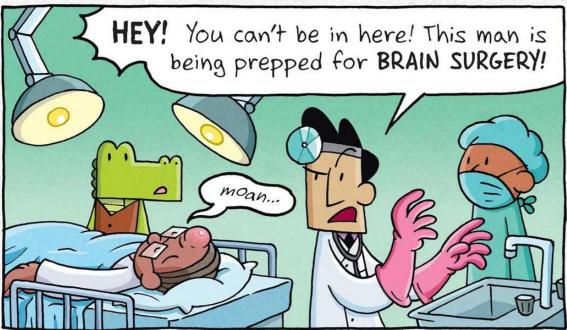




















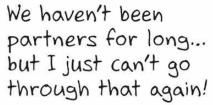




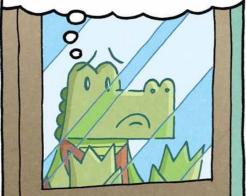




Whoever's behind all this means business! I hope Mango's faring better than I am. I don't want him to get hurt...or worse.







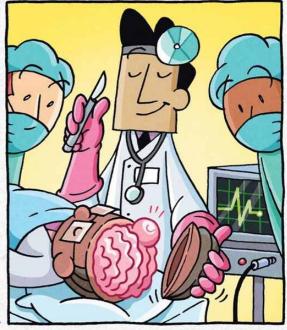










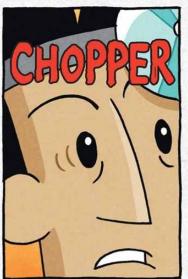


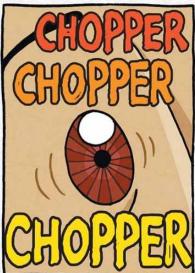
WOW! You really know how to chop a guy open! They should call you...









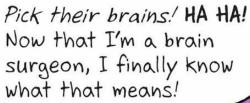


CHOPtor 9











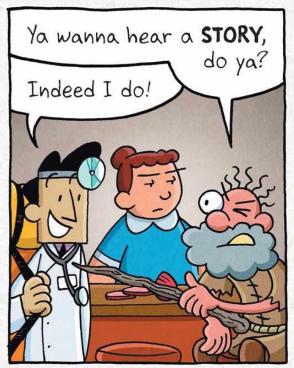




Hello! I'm not from around these parts. This seems like a place with tales to tell.







Even *more* moons ago... travelers came to this quaint village on a MACHINE from the SKY!

It was a helicopter.

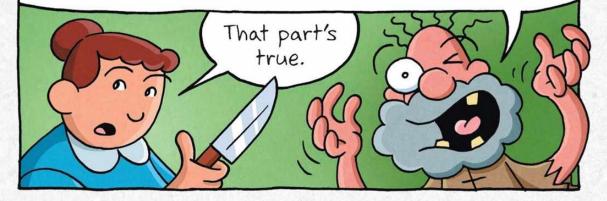


These beings PROBED our minds with their technology!

It was a news crew filming a piece on bed-and-breakfasts.



Hoping to chase them out of town, the local mystic CURSED their flying contraption with RABIES!







chop

And SOME say it haunts the hillside waiting for victims to pass its curse on to.



















chop



I hear that lumberjack again... Did I get turned around in the dark?

CHOP
CHOP
CHOP

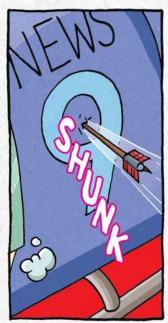






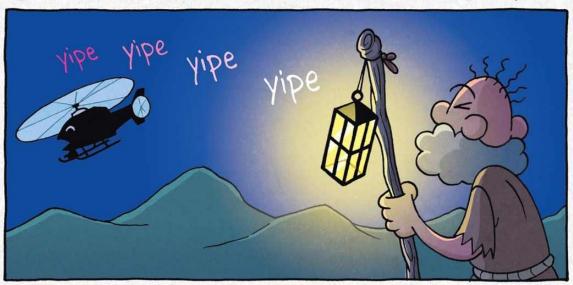














Not just a doctor anymore. You're a WERE-COPTER now.



That machine's curse is coursing through your veins. And that's bad news. Now, whenever there IS news, you will be forced to transform into a news



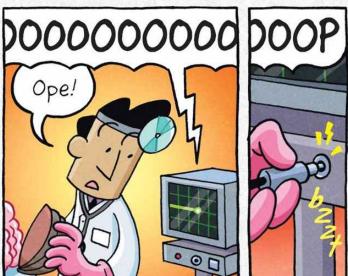
...DOCTOR COPTER!



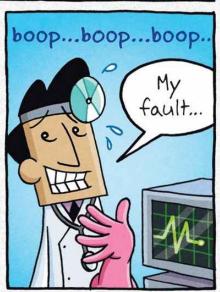


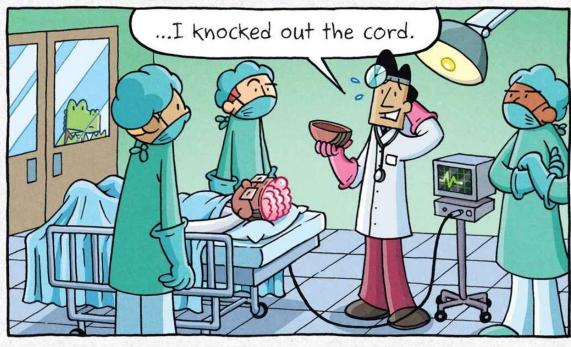




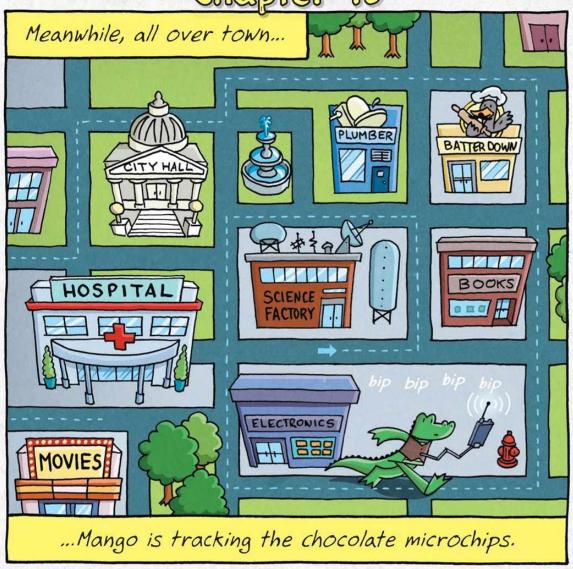


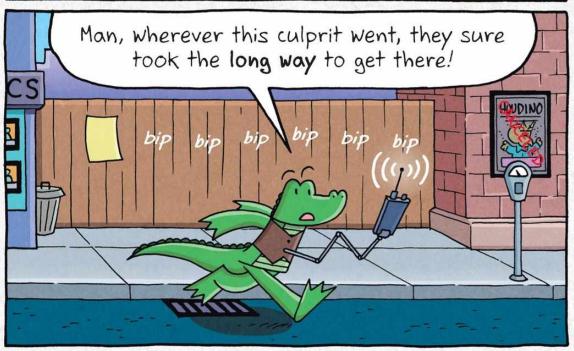






Chapter 10





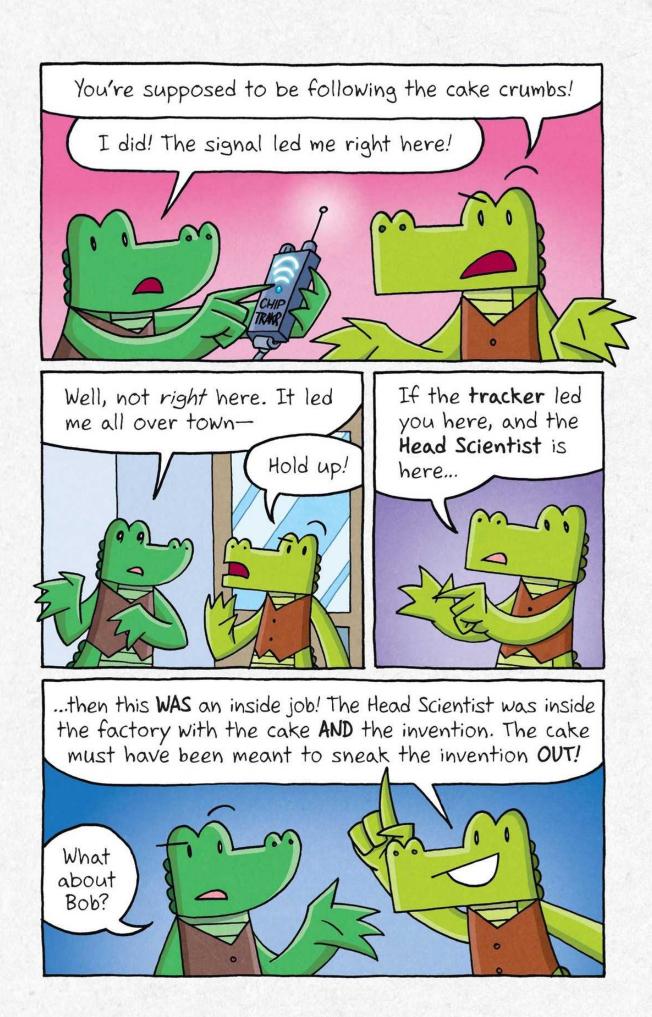


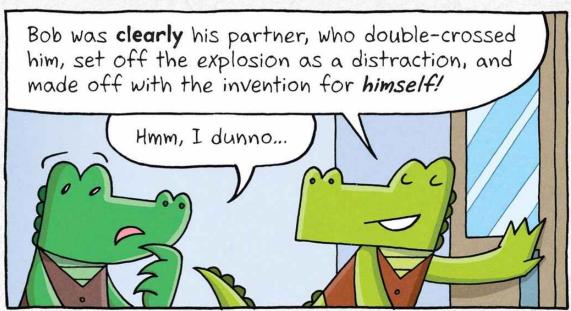












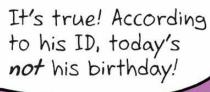








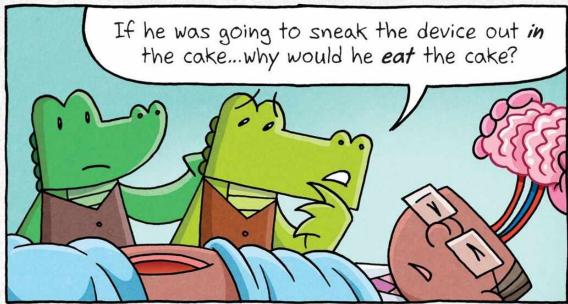


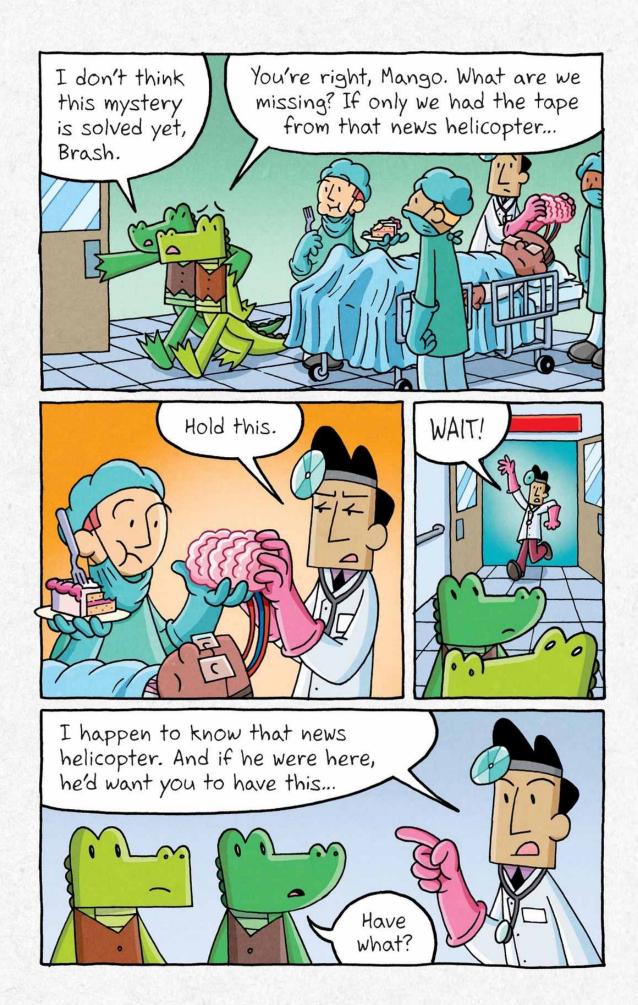




And look! I sliced him open, and found a slice of cake!



















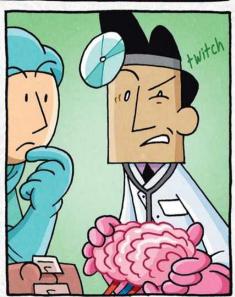
















Mango... This investigation has me worried that something bad is going to happen.

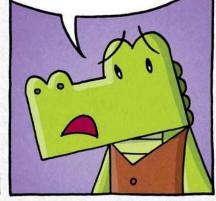


Brash, we're partners. I trust you with my life. So whatever you think will happ—

Mango.

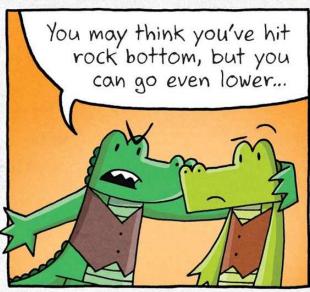


The last time I went undercover at a bakery... my partner...



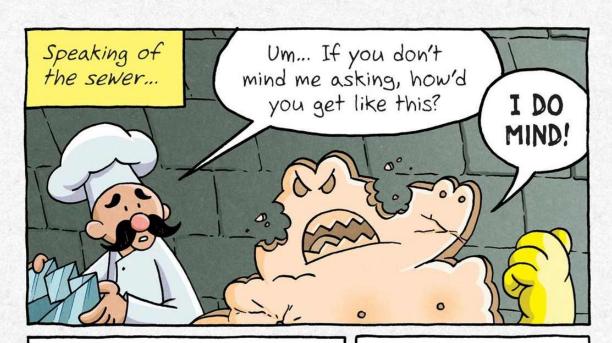












But now that you mention it, maybe my origin story will help you with your task.

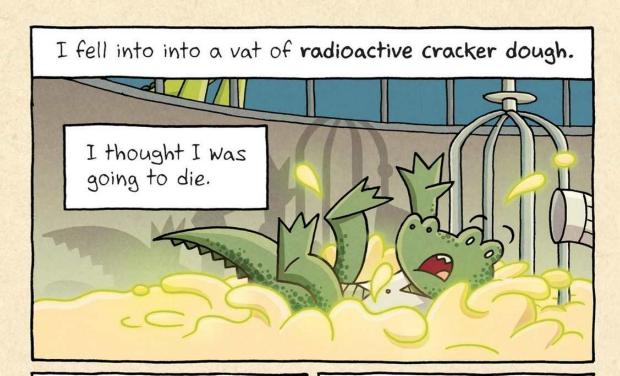


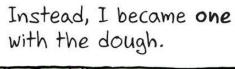
I wasn't always a tasty treat. But I always had a taste... for JUSTICE.

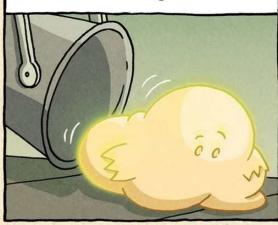


I was once a good guy, Gustavo. A crocodile named Daryl. But then...a catastrophe changed all that!

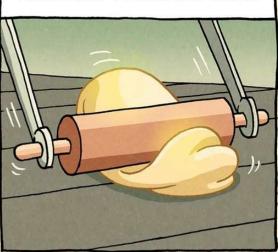




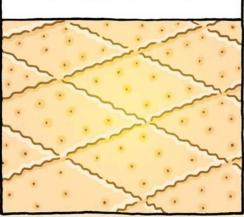




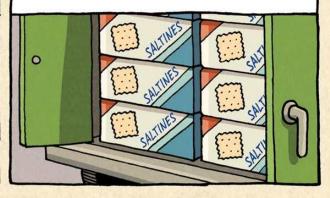




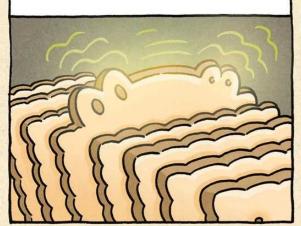
...and baked me into individual saltines.



Then I was packaged, put on a truck, and shipped off to who knows where.



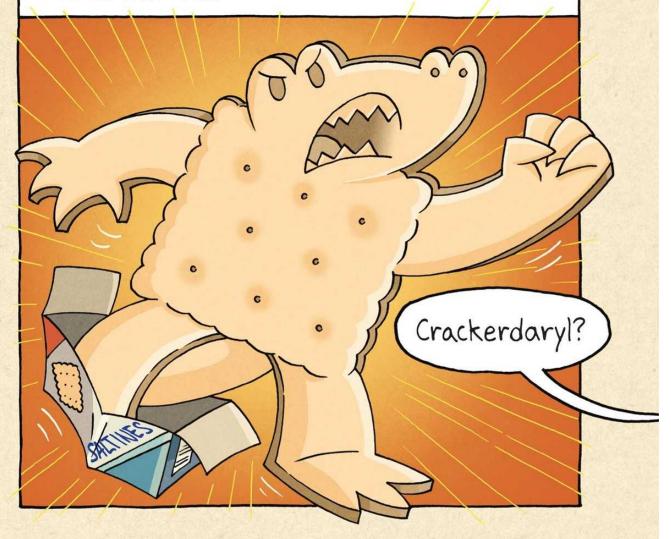
Inside the box I felt myself growing, thanks to the radiation.

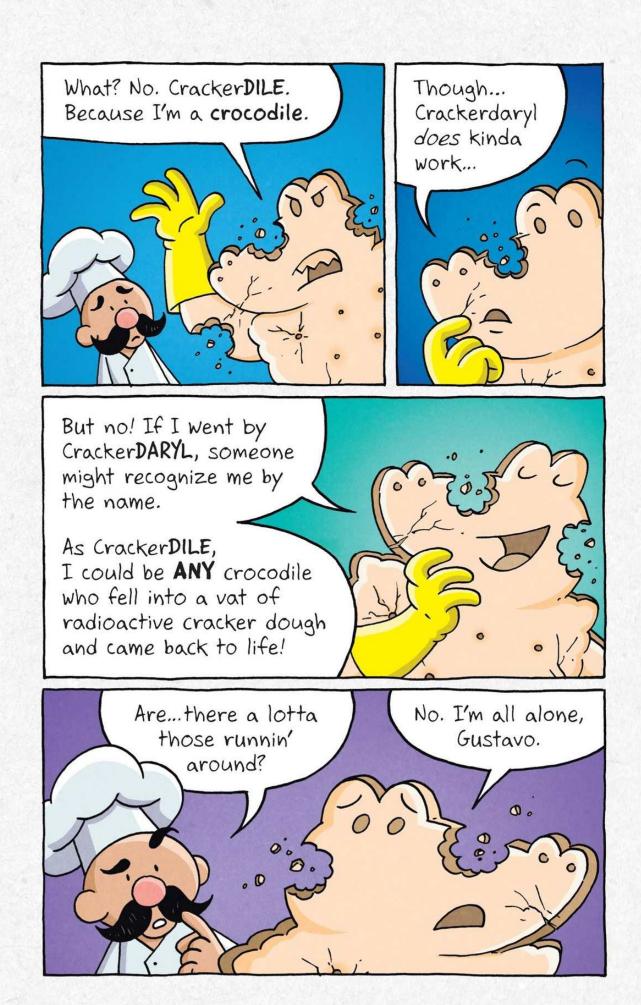


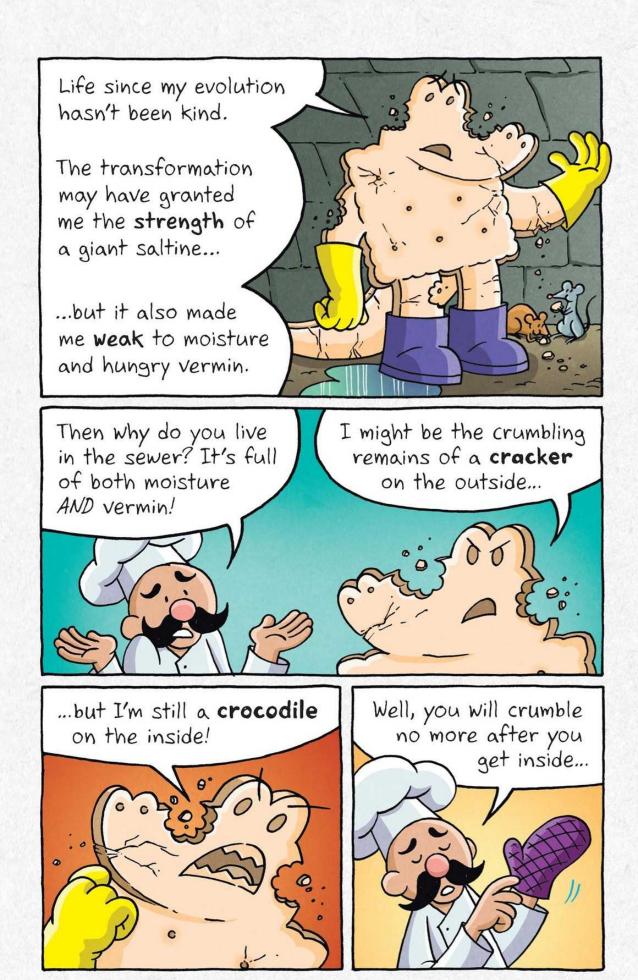
Or maybe it was the rapid-rise yeast.



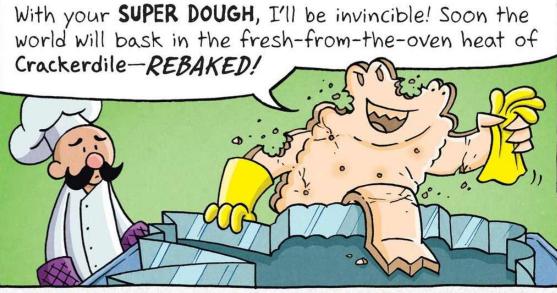
I combined with all the other *me* crackers and *BURST* through that vacuum seal, forevermore to be known as—













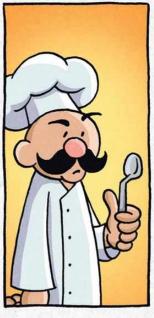




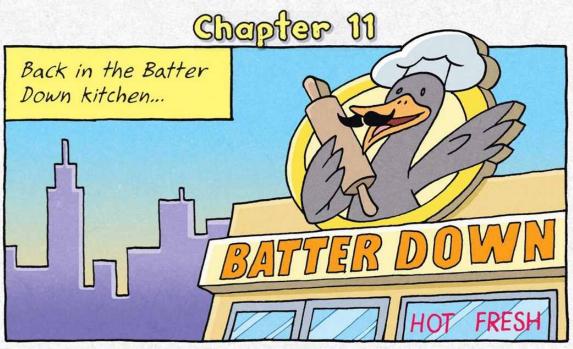










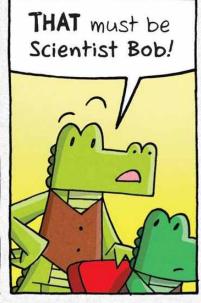








That's the reporter interviewing



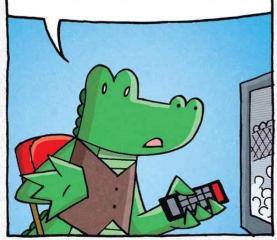
Then the cake and the guy who ordered it show up.



Now that I think about it, why was he in a raincoat when the sun was out?



And then the guard wheels the cake inside.



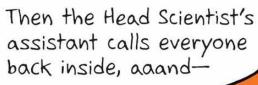
















There's a lot of smoke. Can't make much out.





Double enhance!







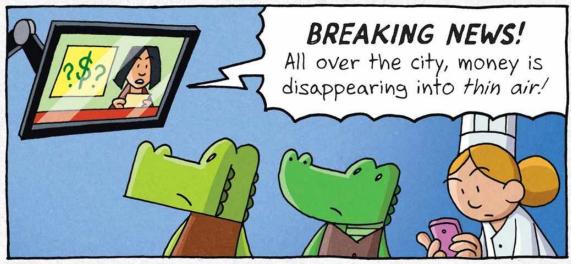








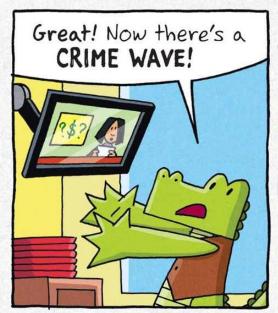












With that scientific breakthrough, Houdino doesn't even need to break in to make a breakout!







OH! Uh... Which one of you is pretending to be Gustavo this time?



























We... We saw him fall down a manhole. And instead of calling for help...we did nothing.







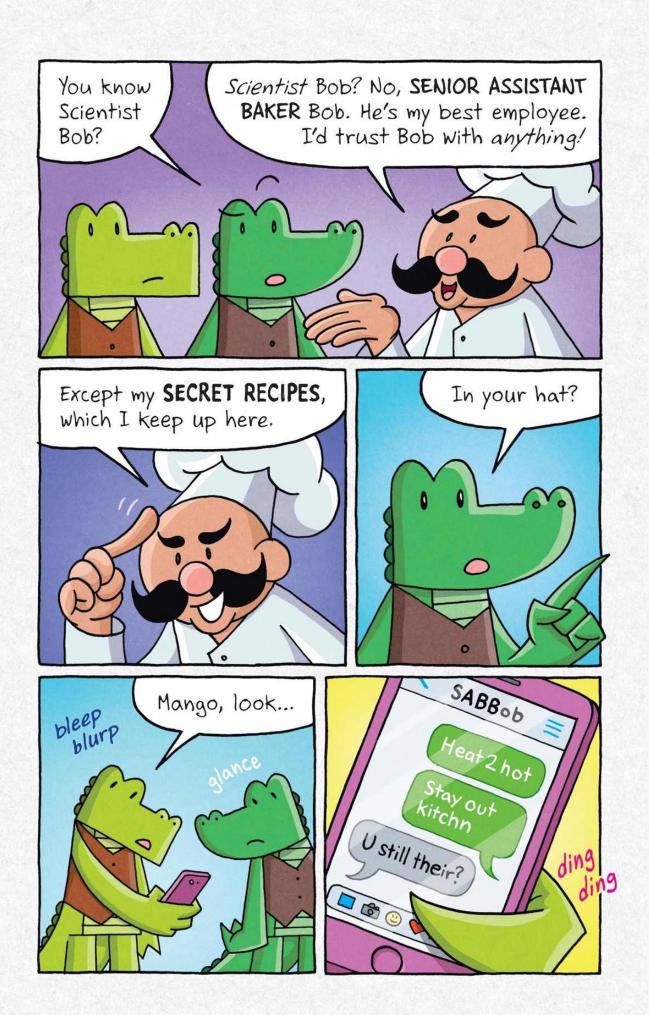


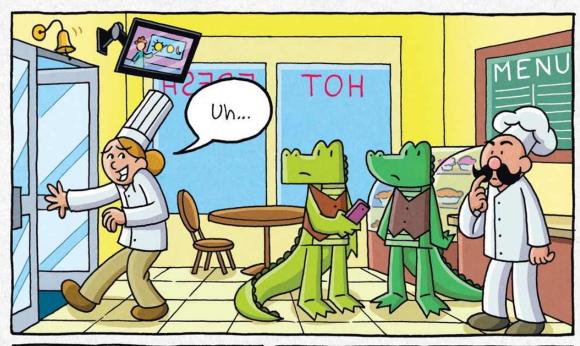




















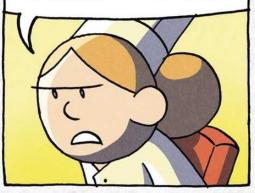


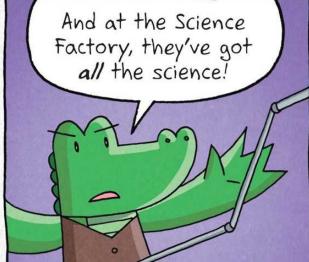




That book only goes up to *ÉCLAIR!* There are **twenty-one** more letters' worth of recipes after that! The only way to figure out Gustavo's secret recipes is to reverse engineer them!

But that takes more science than we had available to us here.





THAT'S RIGHT! When Bob and I saw Gustavo fall down that manhole, it was the perfect opportunity to put our plan into action. We didn't think he was *missing*. We just thought he was stuck in that hole.

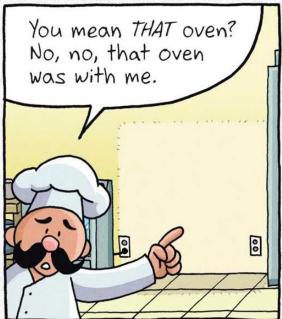


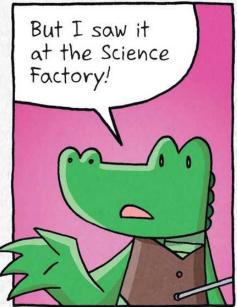
So Bob disguised himself as a scientist to blend in at the Science Factory...

...and deconstructed Gustavo's baked goods with **science** to steal his secret recipes!









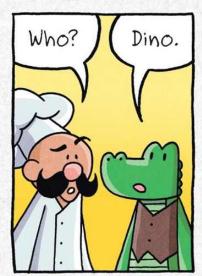
The Bakemeister 2000? It's one of the three best ovens on the market! You can cook up almost ANYTHING in there.



I'd be surprised if the Science Factory didn't have at least one of their own.

So...was Bob working with **Houdino** or what?



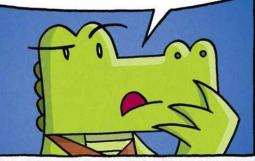


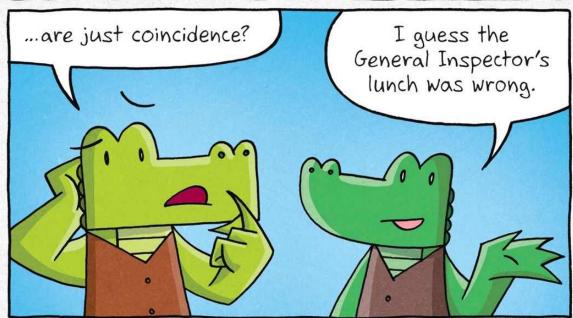


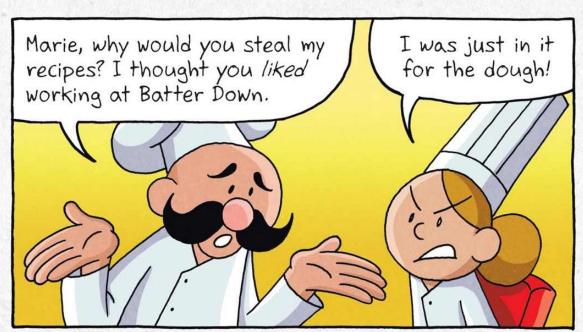




WHICH MEANS...the connections between Gustavo's disappearance, Bob and Marie's recipe thieving, and Houdino's cake shenanigans...









And you bumbling gators will never catch Senior Assistant Baker Bob! He's too smart for you!









Good thing I just happened to run out of the factory with these stolen recipes right before the explosion!

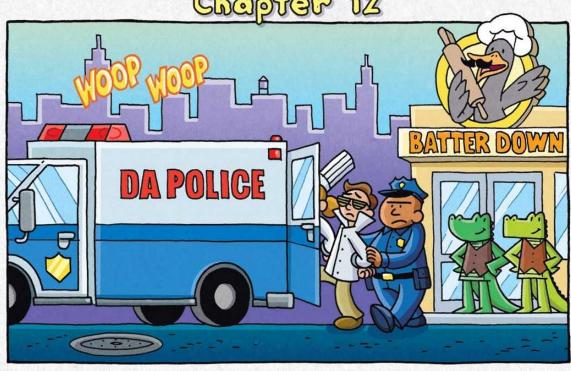


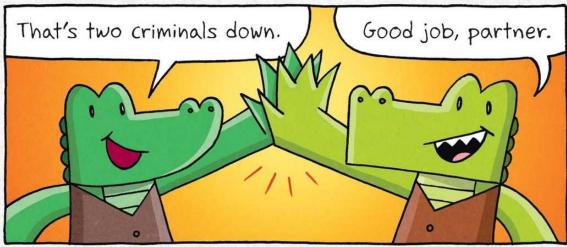
And with
Gustavo stuck
in that manhole,
BAKER BOB'S
is gonna have the
best baked goods
in the world!



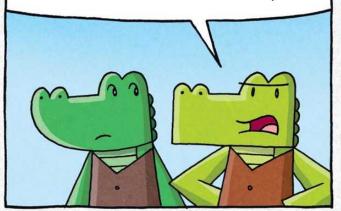




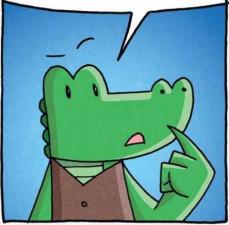




Now we've got to figure out how to catch Houdino before he robs the entire city!

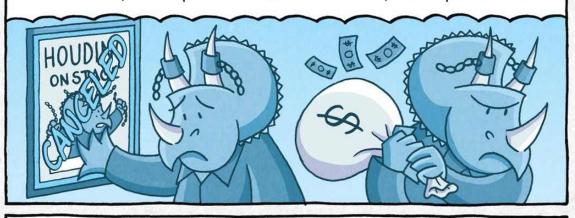


That triceratops will be hard to find.





But what he couldn't escape were low ticket sales. So he turned to a life of crime—mostly bank robbing. He won't pass up a steal, and can't pass up a deal.



There is no vault that can stop him, and no cell that can hold him. Houdino likes to break in, break out, and BREAKDANCE.

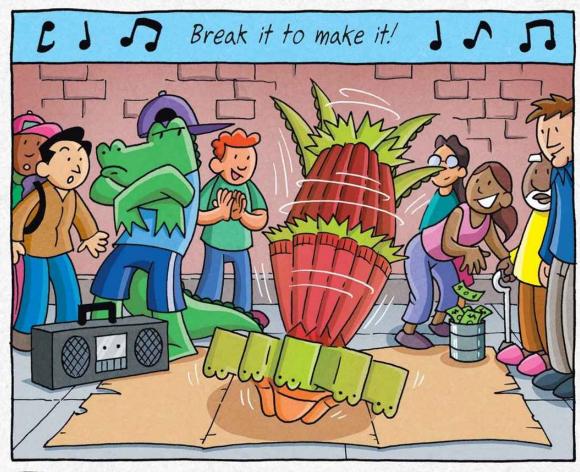








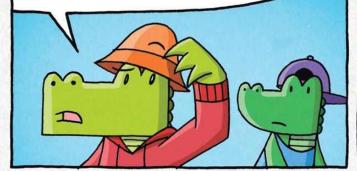


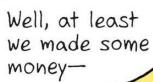






Huh. I guess those hot, fresh moves Inspector Vogue taught us weren't enough to get Houdino's attention.







WHAT?! Our money's VANISHED!



Houdino must have taken it with that money-ray thing!







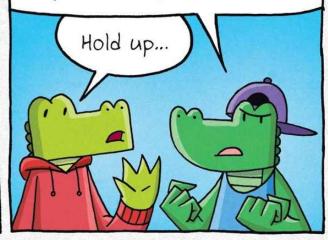
Even if

it's small

The only things left in here are lint and mismatched buttons.



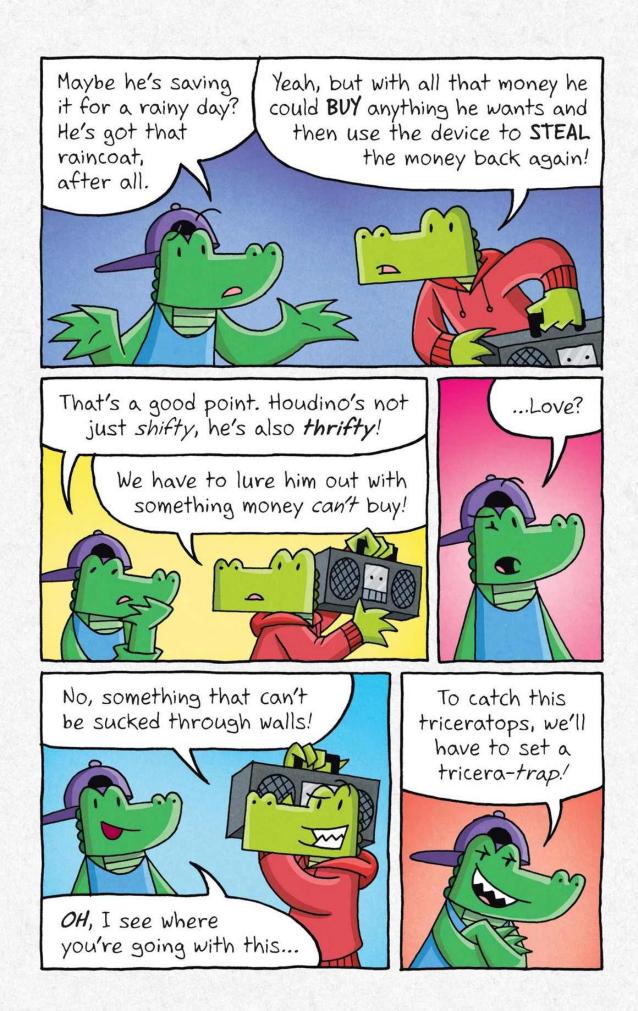
With that invention, robbing anyone is a piece of cake!



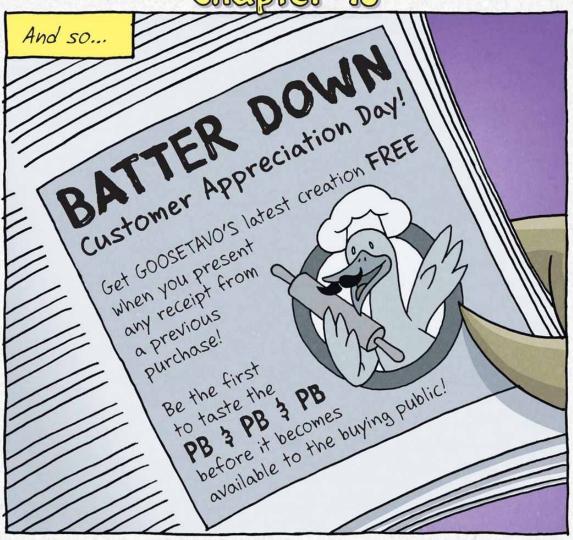
The Thingamasteve ONLY works on money. Which means Houdino can't use it to steal anything else.



So what's the money FOR? He hasn't been caught spending it on anything.

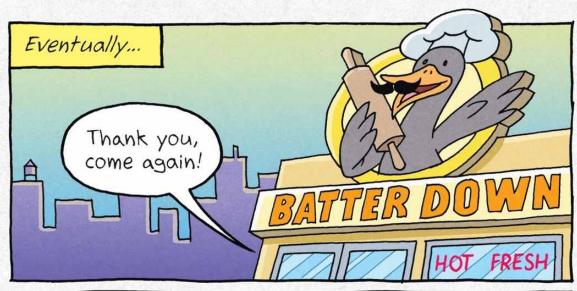


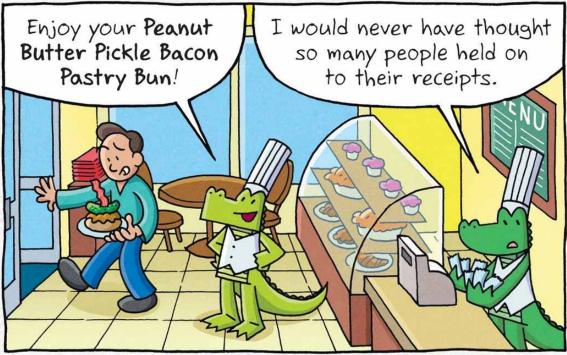
Chapter 13





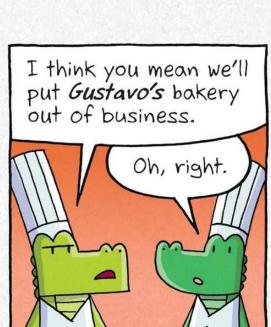






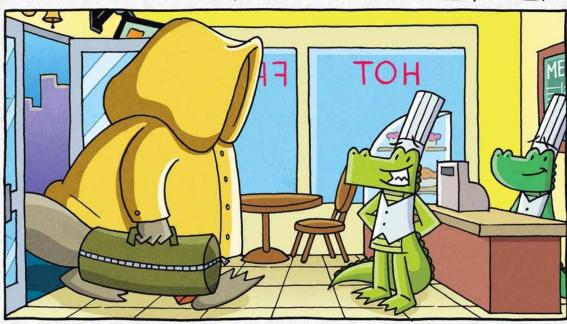


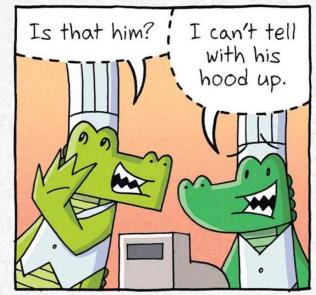






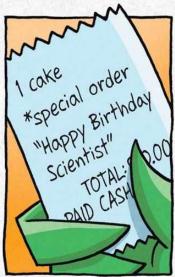




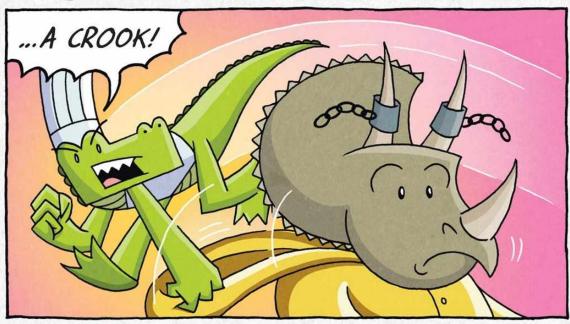














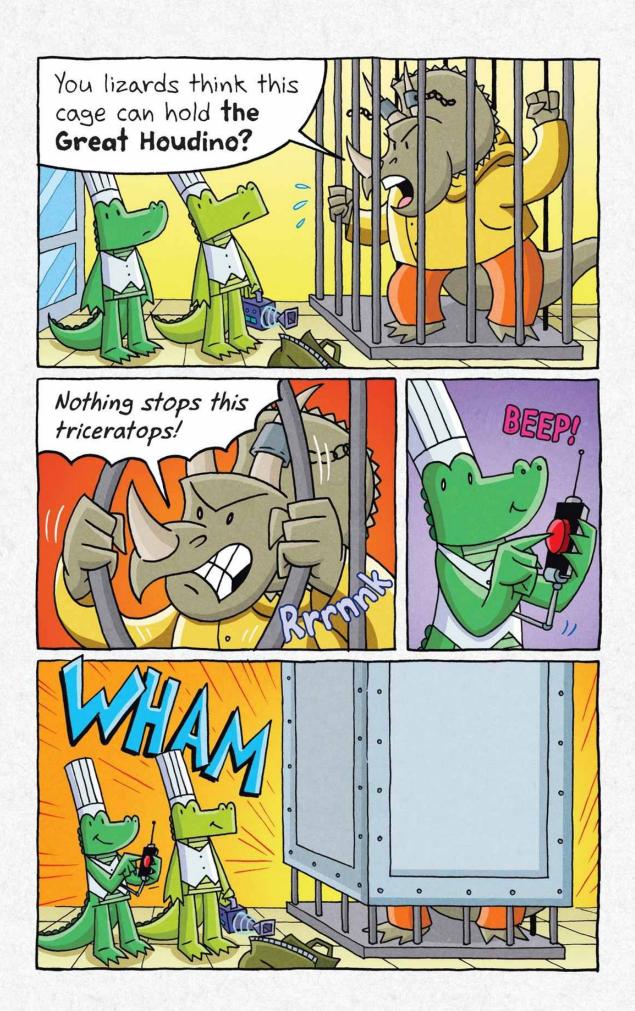


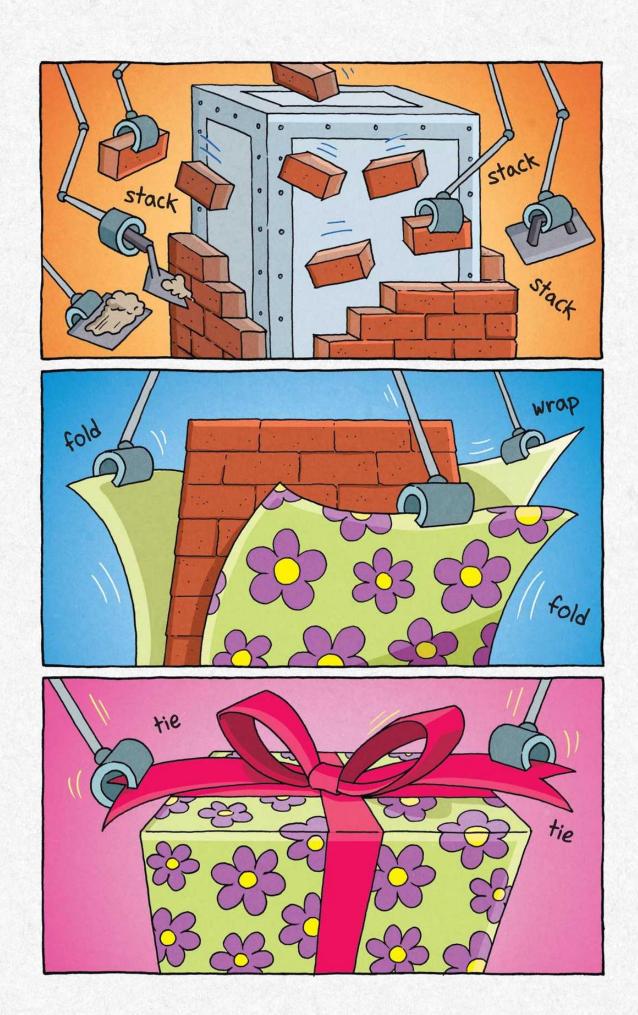




I didn't. But when I saw on the news that all the scientists at the Science Factory were outside, I knew that place would be easy pickin's. There's ALWAYS some contraption that can be used for evil at the Science Factory!





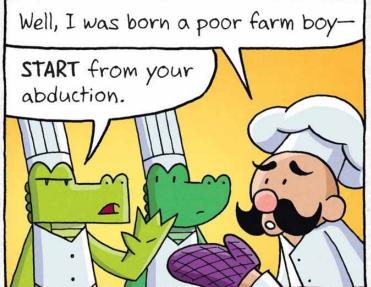




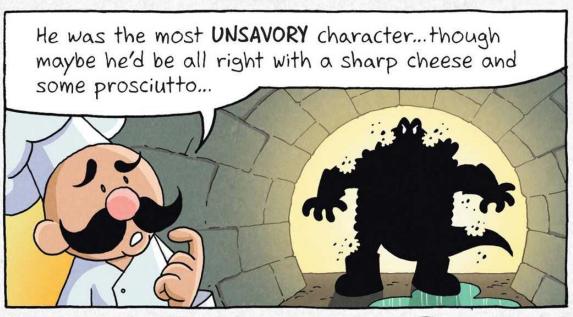


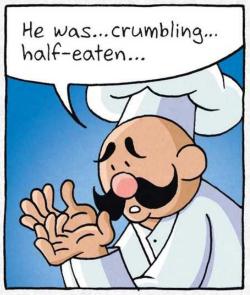


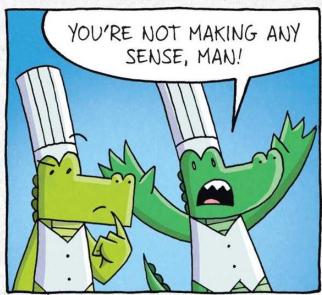


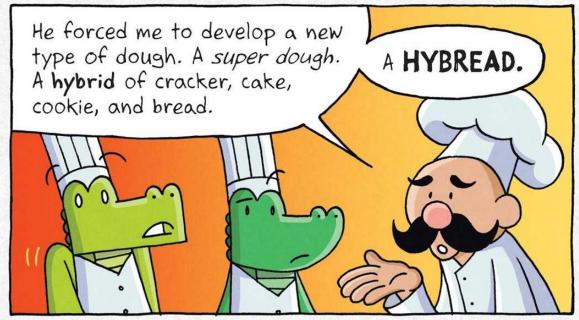




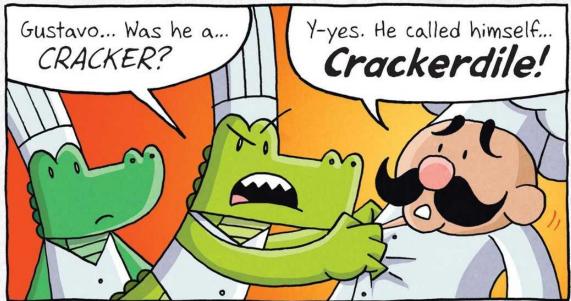


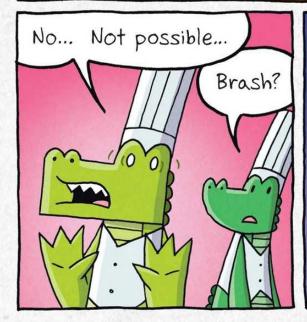


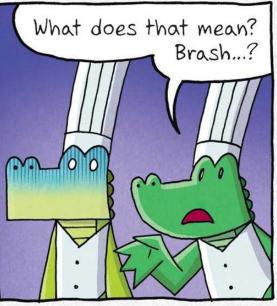


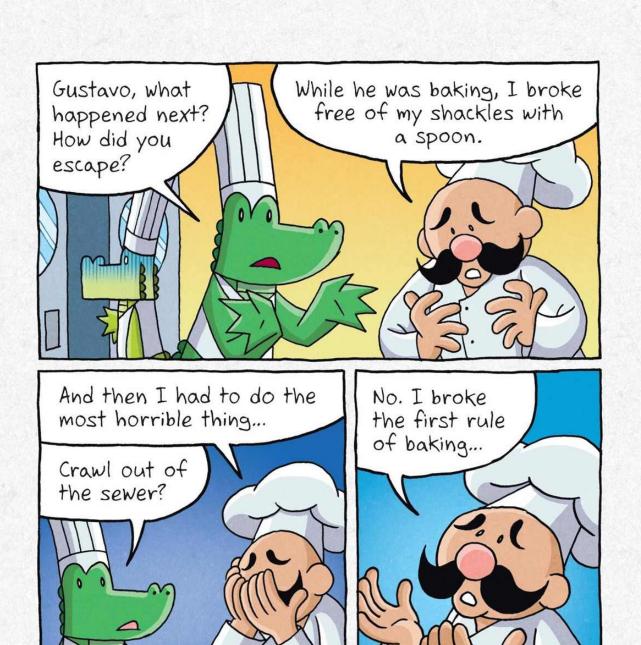
























His name was Daryl. He was S.U.I.T.'s top agent! I learned so much from him in our time together.



Our assignment was supposed to be easy as pie.

Daryl was going to retire. It was his last mission.



We were cracking down on a cracker company that was disposing of nuclear waste by baking it into their saltines!

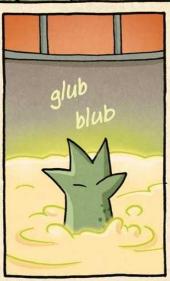




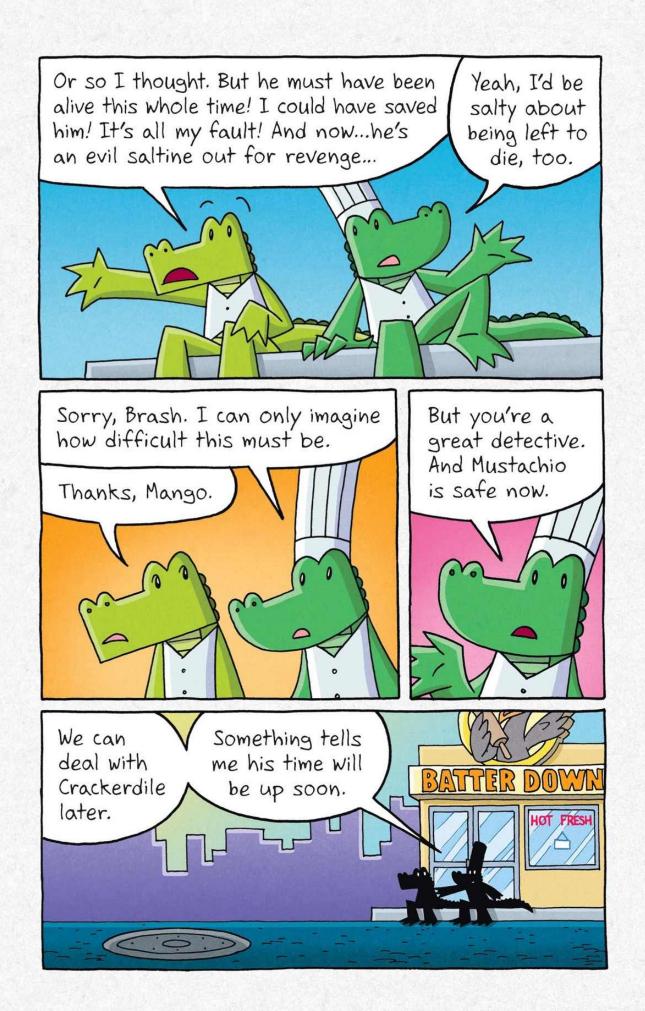


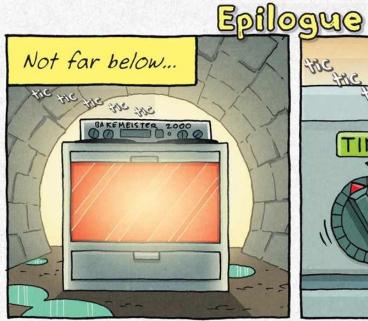


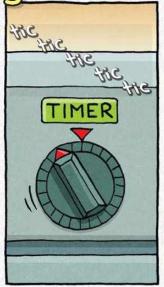


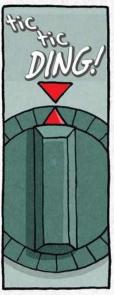








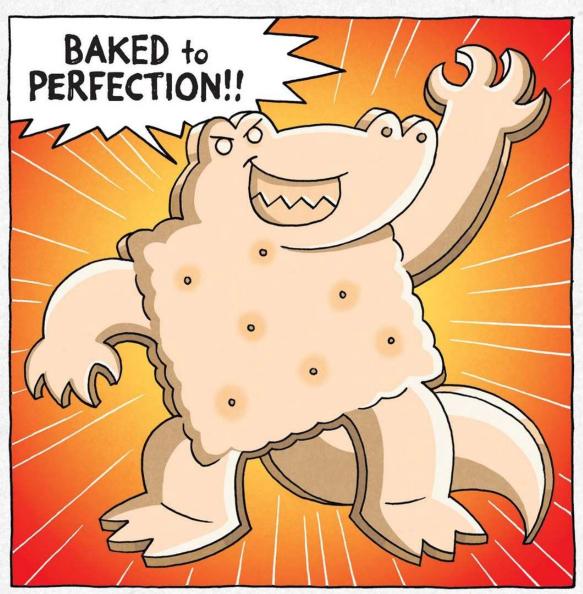






























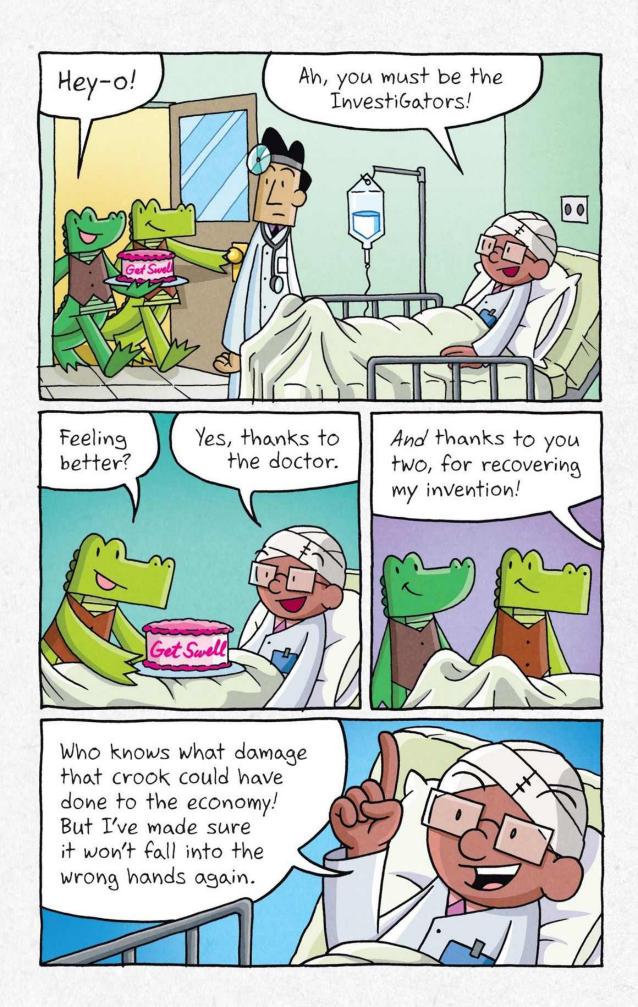


Not quite newsworthy, thankfully, but still a success.

Thanks, Dr. Hardbones.











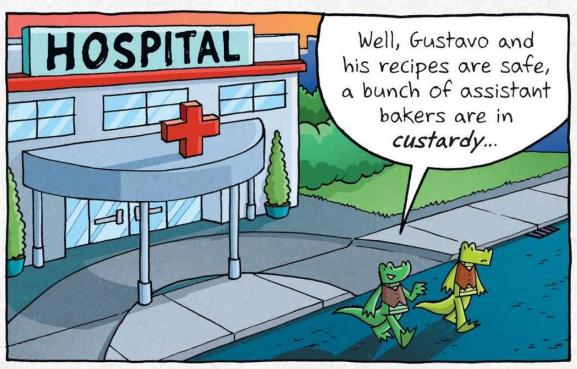












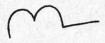




INVESTIGATORS

How to draw MANGO & BRASH

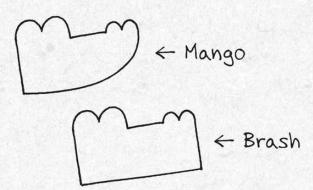
- 1. Draw two arches that sort of look like a bird with long, droopy wings.
- 2. Add a short line for the top of the snout.
- 3. Draw two smaller arches for the nose.



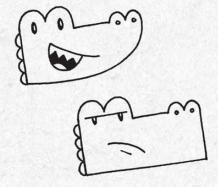


4. Make a line at the back of the head, and for Mango draw a curved snout connecting his neck to his nose.

If you're drawing Brash, give him a rectangular snout.

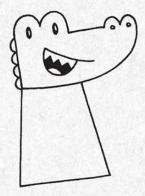


5. Add details like eyes, nostrils, and neck ridges. Give them expressions with their mouths and eyebrows!

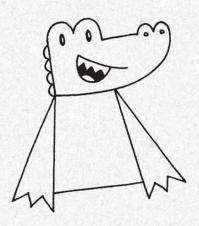


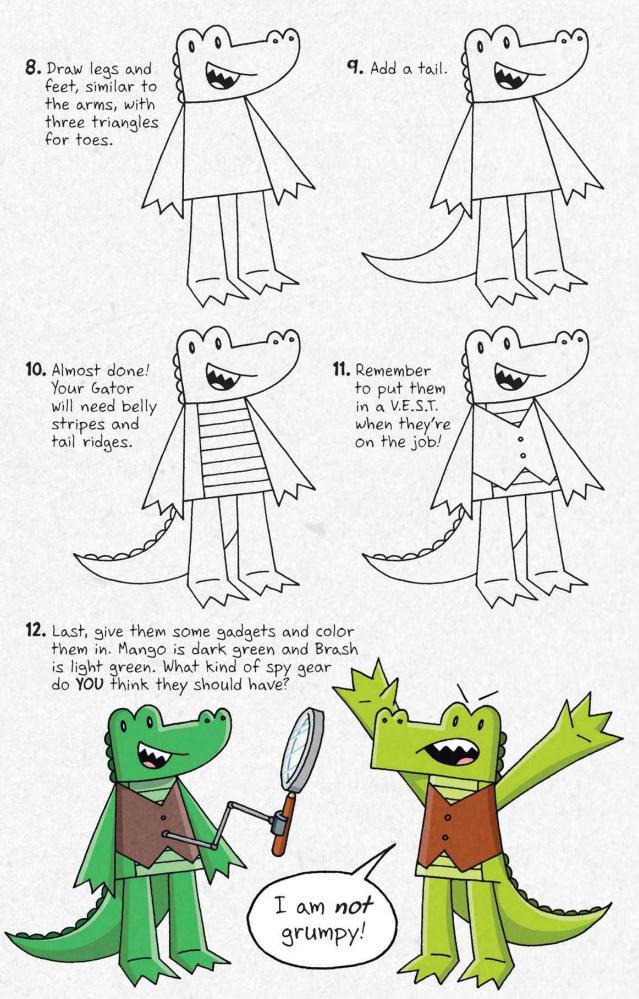
6. Mango and Brash have identical bodies. Let's draw Mango's, because Brash looks grumpy!

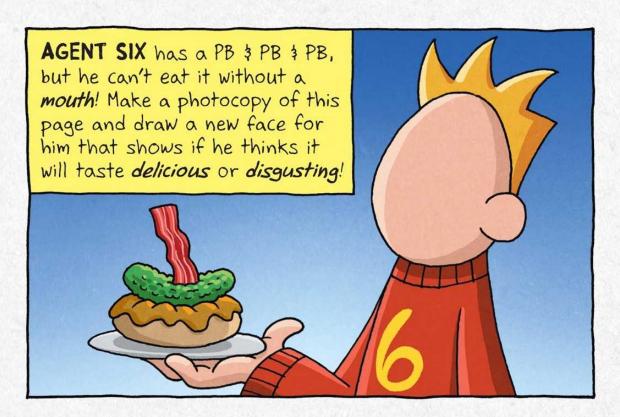
Draw a slightly crooked box shape for the torso.



7. Next, add arms, with little triangles at the ends for fingers. The Investigators usually have three, or four if we can see their thumbs.



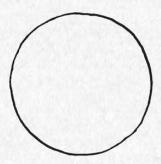




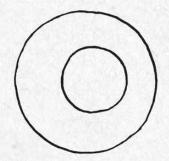
How to draw C-ORB

*Computerized Ocular Remote Butler

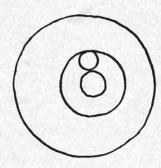
1. Draw a circle.



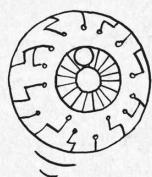
2. Draw another circle.



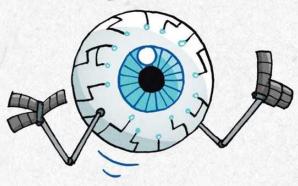
3. Draw two more circles!

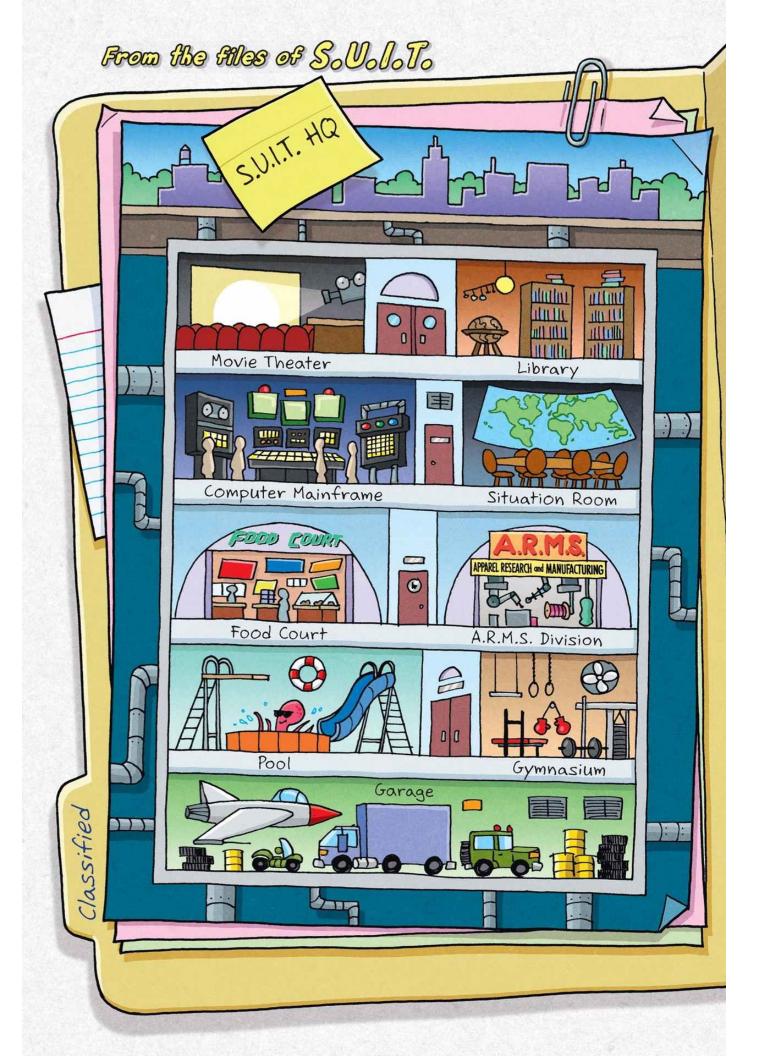


4. Draw details like circuitry and iris lines. Add little swooshes to indicate C-DRB is floating.

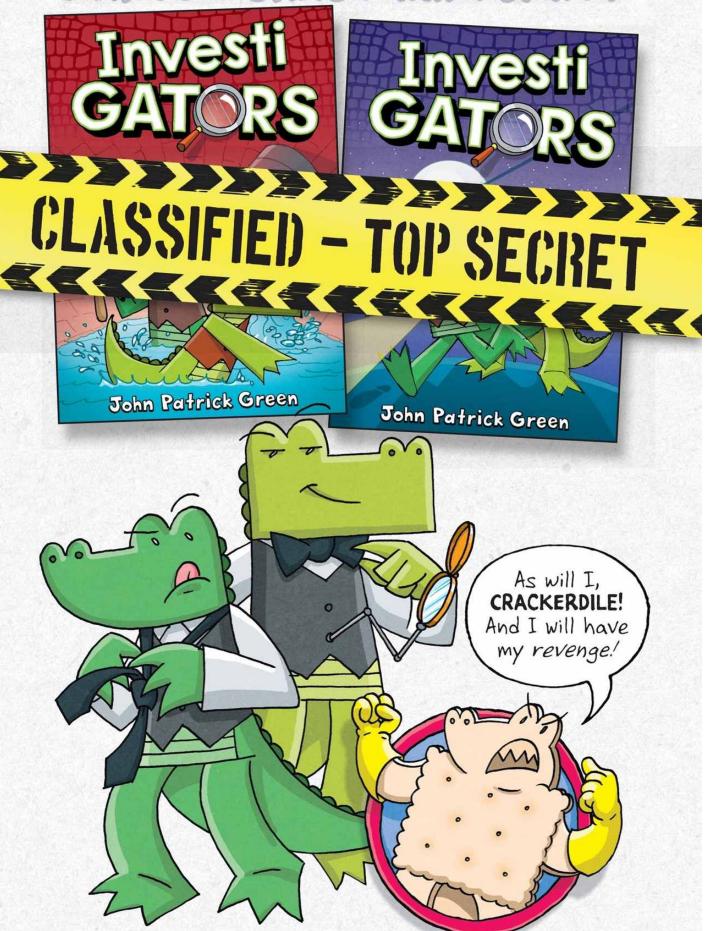


5. Give C-ORB arms and color if you like. Use different colors to change C-ORB's mood!





MANGO & BRASH will return!



More laughter and adventure from

:11

First Second
firstsecondbooks.com



Kitten Construction Company: Meet the House Kittens by John Patrick Green



Kitten Construction Company:

A Bridge Too Fur

by John Patrick Green



Hippopotamister by John Patrick Green



Be Prepared by Vera Brosgol



Odd Duck by Cecil Castellucci and Sara Varon



Making Scents by Arthur Yorinks, Braden Lamb, and Shelli Paroline



Giants Beware! by Jorge Aguirre and Rafael Rosado



Dragons Beware! by Jorge Aguirre and Rafael Rosado



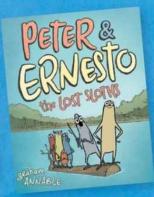
Monsters Beware! by Jorge Aguirre and Rafael Rosado



The Big Bad Fox by Benjamin Renner



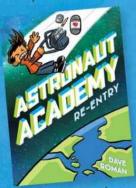
Peter & Ernesto: A Tale of Two Sloths by Graham Annable



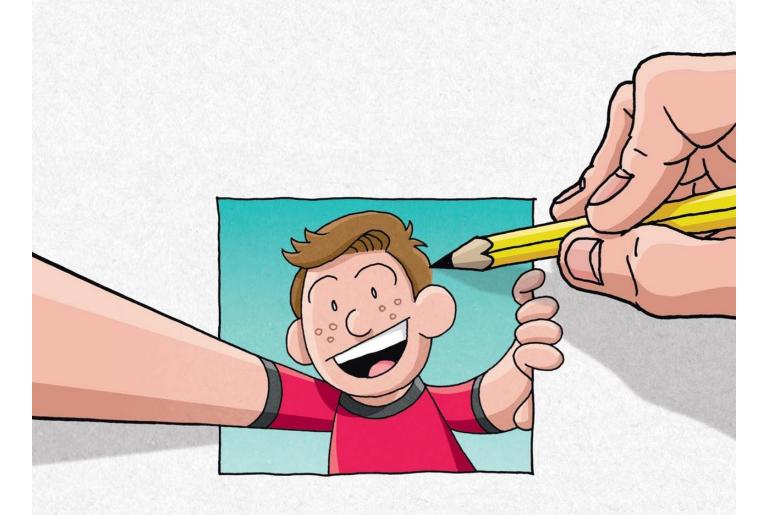
Peter & Ernesto: The Lost Sloths by Graham Annable



Astronaut Academy: Zero Gravity by Dave Roman



Astronaut Academy:
Re-entry
by Dave Roman







written and illustrated by

John Patrick Green

with color by Aaron Polk







sewer-loving agents of S.U.I.T.* and scourge of supervillains everywhere!







With their Very Exciting Spy Technology and toilet-based travel techniques, the Investigators are undercover and on the case!

COMING SOON:
Investi
GATORS
GATORS

*Special Undercover Investigation Teams

Cover art copyright © 2020 by John Patrick Green Cover design by John Patrick Green and Andrew <u>Arnold</u>

First Second
New York